NATION

TN to now home deliver ration items to elderly

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BUSINESS

Retail inflation eases to 1.55%, hits 8-year low

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SPORTS

No Women's WC matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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Aadhaar not proof of citizenship: SC backs EC over SIR

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

The Supreme Court on Tuesday termed the controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar a "trust deficit issue", while backing the Election Commission of India (ECI) and ruling that Aadhaar is not conclusive proof of citizenship.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, hearing pleas against the EC's June 24 order on the SIR, questioned the claim that one crore voters would be disenfranchised.

Excluding citizens from rolls within ECI remit: SC

The Court said including or excluding citizens and non-citizens from electoral rolls was within EC's remit.

"The law of granting or taking away citizenship has to be passed by Parliament but the inclusion and exclusion of citizens and non-citizens from the electoral rolls is within the remit of the election commission," the bench told senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for one of the petitioners.

"If 7.24 crore out of 7.9 crore voters responded, it demolishes the theory," the court told

Petitioners say 12 'dead' Bihar voters found alive

senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for RJD leader Manoj Jha.

The court agreed with the EC's stand that documents like Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards must be supplemented with additional proof of citizenship. "One must submit supporting documents," the bench said.

Sibal argued that despite residents holding valid IDs, officials rejected them. He claimed people were struggling to find parents' documents. Justice Kant replied, "It is sweeping to say nobody in Bihar has documents."

Activists Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Prashant Bhushan, and Yogendra Yadav raised concerns over the process, timeline, and deletion of 65 lakh voters, including 31 lakh women. Yadav alleged the EC visited homes only to delete names, not add them.

Sibal also cited cases where 12 people declared dead were found alive. The court asked the EC to be ready with detailed data, including voters removed, dead, or migrated.

The hearing will resume on Wednesday. —*PTI*

Parl passes National Sports Bill raising fear of centralisation

It introduces creation of a National Sports Board to regulate federations

ALL THE BILLS PASSED ON 12 AUG

LOK SABHA

- Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment, 2025.
- Indian Ports Bill, 2025.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment), 2025, to a select committee.

RAJYA SABHA

- National Sports Governance Bill.
- National Anti-Doping Bill.
- Income Tax Bill, 2025 and Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya calls the Bill the biggest reform in sports since Independence *PHOTO: PTI*

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

In a historic move for Indian sports administration, Parliament on Tuesday passed the National Sports Governance Bill and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, with Rajya Sabha giving its nod just a day after Lok Sabha. The bills now await presidential assent to become law.

The Sports Bill introduces sweeping reforms, including the creation of a National Sports Board (NSB) to regulate federations, ensure transparency, and establish a National Sports Tribunal with civil court powers to resolve disputes related to selections and elections. Tribunal decisions can only be challenged in the Supreme Court.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, calling the move "the biggest reform in sports since Independence," said the government aims to "support, not control" the sector. Responding to concerns about centralisation and lack of clarity on grassroots development raised by BJD MP Subhashish Khuntia, Mandaviya emphasised the bill ensures transparency without interference.

The NSB will be empowered to de-recognise national sports bodies for election irregularities or misuse of funds, after consulting relevant international bodies. It also brings all funded national sports bodies under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, though the BCCI is exempt unless it receives government support. Notably, the bill relaxes the age cap for administrators to 75, aligning with international body rules, and reduces the mandatory term to one tenure to contest National Sports Federation (NSF) elections — paving the way for leaders like PT Usha to seek re-election.

The National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill ensures the autonomy of NADA as per WADA guidelines, removing earlier provisions that allowed government-appointed boards to oversee and direct NADA, which WADA viewed as interference. With these reforms, India becomes the 21st country with a dedicated sports law, aiming to modernise governance. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 3, 5 & 8

Tenure limit in sports bodies

12-YEAR
cap for the posts of President, Secretary General and Treasurer.

Age cap for sports administrators

Standard age limit
70 YEARS
Extension up to
75 ALLOWED
at the time of nomination

Use of national identity in sports bodies

Any sports organisation using India, Indian, National flag, emblem, or insignia must obtain a No Objection Certificate from the Central government.

Parl adjourned till 18 Aug amid uproar over SIR

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned till 18 August following repeated disruptions over the issue of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The Lok Sabha faced three adjournments, and the Rajya Sabha two, before proceedings were halted for the day. Opposition MPs repeatedly stormed the well of the House, demanding a discussion on the SIR issue, which the Presiding Officers noted is sub judice in the Supreme Court.

Despite the din, the Lok Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill and the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, while Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was referred to a Select Committee.

In the Rajya Sabha, Deputy Chairman Harivansh revealed he had received 21 adjournment notices —11 on sub judice matters — and urged members to return to their seats, but the pandemonium persisted, leading to adjournment. —*PTI*

LS forms 3-member panel to impeach Justice Varma

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday set in motion the impeachment process against Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court by admitting a multi-party notice and constituting a three-member inquiry committee.

The committee comprises Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, and senior advocate BV Acharya of the Karnataka High Court. The panel will investigate charges of corruption against Justice Varma and submit its report at the earliest.

Birla confirmed receiving a removal proposal on 21 July, signed by 146 Lok Sabha MPs, including Ravi Shankar Prasad and Rahul Gandhi. The proposal stems from the discovery of burnt wads of currency at Justice Varma's official residence in Delhi on 14 March. He was subsequently repatriated from the Delhi High Court to Allahabad High Court.

Following an internal probe initiated by then CJI Sanjiv Khanna, a three-judge panel submitted its report on 4 May. Justice Varma was asked to resign but declined, prompting the CJI to forward the report to the President and Prime Minister, recommending impeachment. The Supreme Court dismissed Varma's plea challenging this move last week.

Birla, invoking Articles 124, 217, and 218 of the Constitution and Section 3(2) of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, stressed that judicial integrity must remain above reproach.

The current committee includes respected legal figures: Justice Kumar, a former Gujarat HC Chief Justice; Justice Shrivastava, formerly CJ of Rajasthan HC; and Acharya, a veteran jurist known for prosecuting Jayalalithaa in a high-profile assets case. —*PTI*

TEARS FOR STRAYS

Animal lovers gathered at Connaught Place on Tuesday, pleading against the Supreme Court's order to relocate all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR to shelter homes within eight weeks. They fear the move will harm the animals. An FIR was filed against protesters at India Gate. Campaigners urged for proper vaccination and animal birth control instead, calling the order a result of the government's failure *PHOTO: PTI* *>>>Pages 2, 4 & 5*

9-year-old boy rapes classmate with friend's help

YAVATMAL, 12 AUG

A 9-year-old boy allegedly sexually assaulted a girl studying in his class with the help of another female classmate in the toilet of their school in Maharashtra's Yavatmal.

The accused boy and the 9-year-girl, who abetted the crime, were detained and sent to a juvenile remand home.

The victim, aged 8, and the two accused were students of Class 3 at a Zilla Parishad school in Babulgaon where the incident took place on 1 August.

A few days back, the 8-year-old girl complained of pain in her private parts following which her mother took her to a hospital. Doctors at the hospital found injuries on the victim's private parts. As per a police complaint lodged by her mother, her daughter told her that a boy from her class assaulted her in the school toilet with the help of another girl. The victim's mother approached the police on 9 August with a complaint against the duo. —*PTI*

Bilawal says Pakistan will wage war against India

ISLAMABAD, 12 AUG

Former Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari warned India, declaring that any move to alter or suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) could lead to war. Speaking a day after Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir's renewed nuclear threat, Bilawal said that if India forces war, Pakistan "will not back down."

Addressing a ceremony at the shrine of Sindhi saint Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Bilawal said: "If war is waged, then from the land of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai we will send a message to the Modi government — we do not retreat, we do not bow down."

India suspended the IWT on 23 April, following the Pahalgam terror attack, as part of broader punitive actions against Pakistan. Bilawal condemned the move, calling it "an attack on our civilisation, our history, and our culture." He stressed that the Indus River is Pakistan's major water source and is tied to the Indus Valley Civilisation. "An attack on the Indus River is an attack on our identity," he said. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

DGCA notice to IndiGo for training lapses of 1,700 pilots

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Aviation regulator DGCA has issued a show cause notice to IndiGo for alleged lapses in simulator training conducted for nearly 1,700 pilots, according to sources.

The sources on Tuesday said the show cause notice was issued after scrutiny of records and replies received from the airline last month.

IndiGo said it is in the process of reviewing the show cause notice.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) found that Category C or critical airfield training for around 1,700 pilots, including pilots in command and first officers, was conducted with non-qualified simulators, the sources said. According to sources, DGCA found that the simulators on which the 1,700 pilots did their training were not qualified for operations at Calicut, Leh and Kathmandu airports. —*PTI*

REPEAL OF SEC 377 INCLUDED

CBSE to teach about triple talaq, new criminal laws

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Landmark legal reforms, including the repeal of Section 377, abolition of triple talaq, and enactment of new criminal codes, will now be part of the CBSE Legal Studies curriculum from the 2026–27 academic session, officials confirmed.

Approved by the CBSE's Curriculum Committee and ratified by the Governing Body in June, the decision aims to align senior secondary legal education with India's evolving legal landscape. Students of Classes 11 and 12 will study the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) — the new laws that replace the colonial-era IPC, CrPC, and Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

"These changes are necessary to ensure our students understand the legal principles shaping contemporary India," a senior board official said. The curriculum will also cover key Supreme Court rulings and constitutional doctrines, including the decriminalisation of homosexuality and ban on instant triple talaq, both of which significantly impacted Indian society.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

An expert committee will be formed, and a content development agency may be engaged to prepare updated textbooks in time for the new academic session. The textbooks will follow a modern, engaging pedagogy in line with the National Education Policy. Introduced in Class 11 in 2013 and extended to Class 12 in 2014, Legal Studies has grown to a vital subject for students. —*PTI*

Hubballi Airport first to use its own solar power

HUBBALLI, 12 AUG

Hubballi Domestic Airport in the State has become the first and only airport in India to operate entirely on self-generated electricity through its solar plant. Established with an investment of Rs 33 crore in 2022, the plant generates 8 megawatts of electricity daily, yielding annual savings of Rs 3.64 crore. It not only powers the airport but also supplies energy to Belagavi and Mysuru airports, as well as other facilities in the City. "By selling additional power to KPTCL, the airport is earning Rs 1.5 crore income annually," stated Rupesh Kumar, Hubballi airport director. The facility, located on 48 acres, is the largest solar installation at an airport in India and has earned the "Platinum In The Green Airport Recognition 2025." *—Salar News*

K'taka CEO to send notice to dormant parties

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

The Election Commission of India has directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka to issue show cause notices to several Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs), including Akhila Bharatiya Rytha Party, Badavara Shramikara Raitara Congress Party, and Bhaarateeya Janashakthi Congress, for failing to contest any election since 2019. Registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, these parties enjoy benefits such as income tax exemption and symbol allotment. *—Salar News*

Thrashed Dalits as they harassed girl: accused Lingayats

BELAGAVI, 12 AUG

Members of the Lingayat community filed a counter complaint against two Dalit youths, whom they allegedly tied to a tree and thrashed in Belagavi on 5 August. In their complaint, seven people from the Lingayat community said that the two youths used to tease a 14-year-old girl. In the complaint to the Katkol police on Tuesday, they said that the youth used to follow the girl – one of the complainant's family member – on a bike while she was going to school. Despite repeated warnings, the two youths continued to harass her. The Lingayats therefore tied them to a tree in Ramdurg and thrashed them. The Dalit youths — Irranna Vithal Naikar, 18, and Lakshman Msllappa Chippalkatti, 19 — had earlier filed a complaint under the AtrocitiesAct, alleging they were attacked for objecting to the forcible use of their farmland as a road. *—Salar News*

Khandre says PPP can make City green again

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has emphasised the urgent need for more parks like Lal Bagh and Cubbon Park in the City, and said that a private-public partnership (PPP) may be the solution. Speaking at the inaugural conference of the Karnataka Forest, Wildlife, and Climate Change Foundation, Khandre remarked, "Even after 150 years, there hasn't been another major park in the City like Lal Bagh or Cubbon Park." With the City's population nearing 1.5 crore, Khandre urged corporate institutions to collaborate in enhancing green spaces to prevent Bengaluru from becoming a "gas chamber like Delhi." He mentioned a planned biodiversity park at Madappanahalli, with an estimated budget of Rs 250 crore, which he believes can benefit from PPP. *—PTI*

State govt tables 15 Bills in Assembly

Notable mentions include the Gig Workers Bill, as the State mulls change RTI rules

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

The Karnataka government on Tuesday tabled 15 bills, including one to provide social security and welfare to the gig workers.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka Amendment) bill was also tabled.

The government said the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025 is aimed to protect the rights of platform based gig workers.

It also intends to place obligations on aggregator or platform in relation to social security, occupational health and safety, transparency in automated monitoring and decision-making system, to provide dispute resolution mechanisms, to establish a welfare board and create a welfare fund for platform based gig workers.

The 16-member board will have Labour Minister as its ex-officio chairperson, additional chief secretary or the principal secretary of labour department as the ex-officio member.

It will have four representative body of gig workers, an equal number of representative body of aggregator, two representatives from the civil society with experience in the field and a technical expert.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Amendment Bill makes "attempt and preparation to make engagement of a child punishable by rigorous imprisonment, which may extend to two years or with fine, which may extend to Rs one lakh or with both".

The Karnataka Compulsory Service by Candidates Completed Medical Courses (Amendment) Bill enables posting of MBBS graduates even in urban areas which remain surplus even after posting to rural areas, posting of post graduates to community health centres and other hospitals in rural areas and issuing conditional, No Objection certificate to pursue higher studies like PG and super specialty courses upon submitting an undertaking to fulfill the obligation of one year compulsory service.

Bills that were passed include Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Medical Officers and Other Staff) (Amendment) Bill, Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill that sets the buffer zone regulations and prevents the misuse of lakes, Fire Force (Amendment) Bill, Medical Registration Bill, and Universities (Amendment) Bill.

Other bills pertain to setting up development authority or board for Banavasi, Sarvajna Kshetra, Kitturu, Kudala Sangama, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Area, Kaginele and Basavakalyana.

Meanwhile, The State government informed the Legislative Assembly that it is open to reviewing rules under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, after both ruling and Opposition MLAs said that the law was being misused by activists to "harass" and "blackmail" officials.

Meanwhile, BJP demanded a statement from Home Minister G Parameshwara in the Assembly on the status of the SIT probe into the Dharmasthala "mass burial" case. Opposition Leader R Ashoka reiterated his demand for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Parameshwara's resignation over the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) stampede. *—Agencies*

'Will name a metro station after Munirathna if he sponsors it'

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the government was ready to name the now axed Bettahalasur Metro Station after BJP MLA Munirathna if he sponsored the station.

During Question Hour, Munirathna asked whether the government dropped the Bettahalasur Metro Station in the airport line because the Embassy Group withdrew sponsorship.

"It is allowed to name the station after a company if they sponsor the construction with CSR funds," Shivakumar said. "Munirathna has about 70-80 acres of land there and hence he needs a station."

Munirathna pressed him further, "If Shivakumar makes a call to Embassy builders, they will make the payment in 24 hours. Builders in Bengaluru only listen to him."

Shivakumar retorted, "Self interest is natural. Embassy has about 250 acres and they were willing to pay Rs 120 of the total cost of Rs 140 crores to brand the metro station there. They have given only Rs 1 crore till now. We will build the station and name it after Munirathna if he pays for it."

Opposition Leader R Ashoka intervened. "Munirathna is only saying that the DyCM must pressure Embassy."

"Why should I pressure them?" Shivakumar scoffed. "If needed, we will cancel the agreement and go ahead and name the station 'Munirathna and Co' if he is willing to sponsor it." *—Salar News*

BJP writes to EC on CM Ibrahim's claims that CM bought 2018 election

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

Rajya Sabha MP Lahar Singh Siroya has written to the Election Commission of India on claims made by former Union minister CM Ibrahim's claim that he "purchased" 3,000 votes in the Badami in to help Chief Minister Siddaramaiah win the 2018 Karnataka Assembly elections.

"Ibrahim, a former union minister and one of Siddaramaiah's closest associates and advisors for decades, has made a shocking revelation. He has said that he, along with senior Congress leader BB Chimmanakatti, helped purchase 3,000 votes in 2018 so that Siddaramaiah could scrape through the Assembly election from the Badami seat," the BJP member wrote to the ECI in Delhi. "In the final count, Siddaramaiah's victory margin in Badami was a mere 1,696 votes. It was a humiliating margin for a sitting Chief Minister. The NOTA votes (2,007) were higher than his victory margin."

"Ibrahim will do us a great favour if he tells us how, and from whom, he purchased the 3,000 votes to save his friend. He has also said that Siddaramaiah had paid for this purchase, but took six months to make the payment," he added.

● Rajya Sabha MP Lahar Singh Siroya asked the EC to investigate former Union minister CM Ibrahim's earlier statement that 3,000 votes were "purchased" in Badami for the 2018 polls

Singh attached the contents of one of Ibrahim's speeches to the letter. "A recording of his speech contains a specific claim regarding the purchase of votes.... With direct reference to the involvement of senior political figures. The allegations, if true, indicate a serious violation of electoral laws and a matter of urgent public importance."

Singh added that BJP leader B Sriramulu, who lost the election to Siddaramaiah, should also speak about the issue.

In a response to Ibrahim's remarks, Siddaramaiah had earlier said he visited Badami only twice during the 2018 Assembly polls, and was "not aware" of ground matters.

The letter comes after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed there was "vote chori" in the City.

"Gandhi has opened a can of worms," Singh said. "His party colleagues, including his CM, are more affected than anybody else." *—Salar News*

Cong asks ECI to withdraw comments on RaGa

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee's Media and Communication Department Chairman and advocate Ramesh Babu, has written to the Chief Election Commissioner asking it to withdraw its remarks against Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Babu said the Election Commission of India (ECI) has a Constitutional duty under Article 324 and the Representation of the People Acts to ensure free and fair elections. He argued that Article 19(1)(a) guarantees citizens the right to raise genuine concerns about electoral integrity without facing intimidation. Gandhi had alleged "vote theft" in the State Mahadevapura segment, citing over one lakh fake votes through duplicate entries, and fake addresses.

Calling the ECI's warning against Gandhi unconstitutional, Babu cited Supreme Court rulings affirming free and fair elections as a basic feature of democracy. *—Salar News*

FIGHTING 'VOTE THEFT'

"On behalf of the people of Bengaluru Central and the Congress leaders and workers from the constituency, I (**Mansoor Ali Khan**) wish to express my profound gratitude to Shri **Rahul Gandhi**. His leadership in confronting the systemic subversion of our democracy has been a source of immense strength and inspiration. The meticulous research undertaken in the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency has laid bare the mechanics of modern 'Vote Chori' — a quiet and disgusting digital usurping of the people's will. By choosing to champion this cause, Shri Rahul Gandhi has launched a formidable challenge against the forces that seek to weaken our democratic foundations. This is no longer just about one constituency; it is about the integrity of our entire electoral system. We are committed to this fight, for the people of Bengaluru and for every citizen of India, to ensure that democracy is not just a word, but a lived reality."

Dharmasthala mass burials: NHRC joins probe

MANGALURU, 12 AUG

A four-member team from NHRC has arrived in Belthangady taluk and on Tuesday launched a probe into the allegations of mass secret burials in Dharmasthala.

Initiated by the NHRC on its own, the probe involves visits to critical local institutions, including the Gram Panchayat office, the local police station, the Dharmasthala temple premises, and the SIT (Special Investigation Team) office.

During initial consultations, the NHRC team, headed by Senior Superintendent of Police Yuvaraj, gathered records of unnatural death cases spanning decades.

Sanitation workers and other relevant individuals have provided statements to support the investigation. The inquiry is expected to span four to five days, according to the police.

SIT TO USE GPR TECH

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged burial of bodies in Dharmasthala in Dakshina Kannada district has been conducting a site examination at 'spot number 13' using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) technology. The SIT has deployed a high-capacity drone equipped with radar imaging to scan the location and detect any objects buried underground. The radar will provide live images of sub-surface anomalies. The inspection is being led by SIT chief Pranab Mohanty. *—PTI*

I am a victim of conspiracy, says ousted Rajanna

MADHUGIRI, 12 AUG

Ousted Karnataka Minister K N Rajanna, who was dropped from the ministry over his comments on 'vote theft', has alleged that he was being made victim of a "big conspiracy" in the State. He said that he would be going to New Delhi to meet the party's senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi and KC Venugopal and "clarify the misunderstanding".

Rajanna, a staunch supporter of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, was sacked as Cooperation Minister on Monday for his statement that the Karnataka government was responsible for the presence of alleged bogus and duplicate voters in the electoral roll. It is said that Rajanna's exit was sought by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who is spearheading the protest against the Election Commission in the 'vote chori' controversy, alleging that the BJP came to power at the Centre with the help of bogus voters in the 2024 General Elections.

Rajanna's supporters caused a commotion in his constituency of Madhugiri, Tumakuru, on Tuesday *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

Siddaramaiah meanwhile, said he was not upset with the Rajanna's sacking from the Cabinet and that any notion in this regard was the Opposition's "imagination".

During a discussion in the assembly, the Opposition BJP took a swipe at the CM for "losing his ardent supporter" in his Cabinet. "Rajanna was your only supporter in the entire Cabinet. We know that you are disturbed after his removal," Ashoka told Siddaramaiah. In reply, the Chief Minister said, "I am not upset. It's all your imagination."

Meanwhile, Rajanna's supporters caused a commotion in his constituency of Madhugiri. Loyalist councillor Girija Manjunath resigned from the Madhugiri municipality in protest, while others demonstrated throughout the town, displaying banners and posters in support of their leader.

The protestors condemned the Congress high command for ousting Rajanna "without any valid reasons".

They enforced a bandh on Tuesday, forcing local shopkeepers to close their businesses. Police efforts to calm the situation were met with resistance, as the demonstrators pushed past. Reports indicate that some shops sustained damage, with owners and staff allegedly manhandled. *—Salar News with agencies*

WILL CREATE SUFFERING

'SC ruling on dogs cruelty'

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called to the recent Supreme Court ruling directing New Delhi authorities to pick up all stray dogs in the national capital "cruelty".

"Treating stray dogs as a nuisance to be 'removed' is not governance - it is cruelty," Siddaramaiah wrote on X. "Humane societies find solutions that protect people and animals. Sterilisation, vaccination, and community care work. Fear-driven measures only create more suffering, not safety."

2 COLLEGE STUDENTS ATTACKED BY DOGS

Two college students were attacked by stray dogs on Tuesday and hospitalised.

The incident occurred inside the Jnanabharathi campus, near Kengeri.

"They are fine now.... We are awaiting a detailed veterinary report," said Suralkar Vikas Kishor, Special Commissioner, Health and Sanitation Department.

He suspected that a pack of dogs attacked the students. *—Salar News with agencies*

Chikkaballapur to host cultural fest for 100 days from 16 Aug

CHIKKABALLAPUR, 12 AUG

Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli in Chikkaballapur will host a mega cultural festival from 16 August, uniting artists from over 100 countries for 100 days to promote 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (one world, one family).

Each day will highlight a different nation through talks by renowned speakers, a session by founder Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai, humanitarian awards, and cultural performances.

The world's largest free private rural hospital will also be inaugurated. *—Salar News*

Lulu Freedom Sale Brings Bengaluru's Biggest Shopping Fest

Lulu Group Karnataka announces the Lulu Freedom Sale from 14–18 August across all Bengaluru outlets. The City's biggest shopping festival promises massive discounts on premium brands, combo deals, and exclusive offers across fashion, electronics, home appliances, and daily essentials. Shoppers can visit Lulu Mall Rajajinagar, VR Mall Whitefield, M5 E-City Mall, and Forum South Bengaluru. "The Lulu Freedom Sale is our tribute to the spirit of independence, offering exceptional value and choice," said Shereef KK, Regional Director, Lulu Group Karnataka.

QUOTE of THE DAY

It is shameful that the Indian Government stands silent as Israel unleashes this devastation on the people of Palestine

-Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader

New IT bill to replace 6-decade-old law

The bills were passed without debate amid Opposition protests against SIR

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Parliament on Tuesday passed a series of major legislative reforms, including the Income Tax Bill, 2025, the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025. All three bills were cleared amid vocal Opposition protests, with some passed by voice vote without debate.

Parliament approved the Income Tax Bill, 2025, replacing the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who introduced the Bill along with the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, said the outdated language and structure of the old law necessitated a complete overhaul.

The new legislation simplifies tax law language and structure without altering existing tax rates. Sitharaman said the Bill underwent extensive scrutiny, including 75,000 person-hours of work and review by a Parliamentary Select Committee.

INDIA bloc members seen wearing T-shirts featuring the name Minta Devi, a voter allegedly listed as 124 years old in the EC's voter list, during their protest over the issues of 'poll fraud' and SIR, at the Monsoon session, in New Delhi, on Tuesday PHOTO:PTI

She expressed disappointment at the Opposition walkout, criticising them for abandoning discussion on such a critical financial bill despite having committed to 16 hours of debate in each House.

Later, the Finance Ministry issued a corrigendum to

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who introduced the Bill along with the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, said the outdated language and structure of the old law necessitated a complete overhaul. The new legislation simplifies tax law language and structure without altering existing tax rates

Clause 425 of the Bill concerning interest on short payment of advance tax. The revised clause now aligns with existing provisions under the 1961 Act, restoring the 3 per cent interest charge for defaults beyond the quarterly due date, even by a single day. Taxpayers must pay advance tax in four instalments—on June 15, September 15, 15 December, and 15 March.

Indian Ports Bill passed

Amid Opposition sloganeering over the Bihar electoral roll issue, the Lok Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, by voice vote. The Bill replaces the century-old Indian Ports Act, 1908, and aims to modernise India's port governance.

The legislation establishes State Maritime Boards to manage non-major ports and sets up the Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) to promote integrated port development. It includes provisions for environmental safeguards, security, emergency response, and alignment with international maritime obligations.

According to the government, the Bill is expected to reduce logistics costs, boost trade efficiency, and generate significant employment across logistics, warehousing, and allied industries. It also allows for greater port autonomy, enables public-private partnerships, and encourages foreign investment.

A major feature is the integration of coastal shipping with inland waterways and multimodal transport systems to improve connectivity.

Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill clears LS

The Lok Sabha also passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, amid the din of Opposition protests. The Bill aims to expand the mandate of the National Mineral Exploration Trust, enabling it to deploy funds for mineral exploration both within India—including offshore areas—and internationally.

To reflect its wider scope, the Trust will be renamed the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust.

The amendment also increases the lessee contribution to the Trust from 2 per cent to 3 per cent of the royalty amount. —*PTI*

RG Kar: BJP MLA summoned for 'threatening' cops

KOLKATA, 12 AUG

The Kolkata Police have summoned BJP MLA and former cricketer Ashok Dinda to appear at New Market Police Station on 17 August for allegedly threatening officers during an 9 August protest marking one year since the RG Kar Hospital rape and murder. Police claim Dinda provoked violence, assaulted an IAS officer's guard, and was caught on video abusing officers, warning they could be "beaten badly" if party leaders approved. The 'Nabanna Chalo Abhiyan' march in Kolkata and Howrah turned chaotic, with clashes, property damage, and alleged violations of a Calcutta High Court order on protest routes. Seven cases were filed, also naming BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul and leader Kaustav Bagchi, for obstructing police, assault, and vandalism.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/DGPPunjab

Punjab police foil ISI-linked BKI terror plot

CHANDIGARH, 12 AUG

Punjab Police have dismantled an ISI-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terror network, arresting five suspects in Rajasthan's Tonk and Jaipur districts. The group, directed by foreign-based operatives Mannu Agwan, Gopi Nawashehria and Zeeshan Akhtar under Pakistan-based BKI leader Harwinder Rinda, had plotted an attack on a liquor shop in SBS Nagar and further strikes on Independence Day. A hand grenade, a 30 bore pistol, cartridges and spent shells were seized. One suspect was injured in an exchange of fire during a recovery operation and is receiving treatment at Civil Hospital, SBS Nagar. Police say the arrests, made through a joint Counter Intelligence and SBS Nagar Police operation, have averted potentially serious attacks. A case has been registered at Nawanshahr police station. —*PTI*

Govt: Fear over ethanol-blended petrol baseless

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Amid social media chatter about the impact of 20 per cent ethanol-blended petrol on vehicles, the Oil Ministry on Tuesday stated that concerns over a drastic drop in fuel efficiency are misplaced, adding that the fuel in fact offers improved acceleration. Doping petrol with 20 per cent ethanol extracted from sugarcane or maize is a national programme aimed at cutting emissions and raising income of farmers, which is being sought to be "derailed" by some by fomenting fear and confusion, it said. In a statement, the ministry listed out the benefits from using E20 (20 per cent ethanol, 80 per cent petrol) and said using such a fuel does not impact the validity of insurance of vehicles in India. —PTI

'Asim Munir is Osama bin Laden in a suit'

WASHINGTON, 12 AUG

Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon analyst, has sharply condemned Pakistan's recent nuclear rhetoric, labelling the country as acting like a "rogue state" following provocative comments made by its army Chief, General Asim Munir, during a meeting in American.

General Munir allegedly threatened that if Pakistan "goes down, it would take half the world down" with it, remarks which prompted widespread alarm. Rubin described the army chief's rhetoric as "completely unacceptable" and akin to statements made by figures associated with ISIS and Osama bin Laden. He raised concerns about Pakistan's ability to fulfil the responsibilities of a sovereign state.

Rubin advocated for immediate diplomatic repercussions, such as revoking Pakistan's status as a major non-NATO ally and potentially designating it a state sponsor of terrorism. He urged that General Munir should be declared persona non grata and escorted from the United States following his threatening comments.

The lack of a swift response from US officials present during the exchange was particularly troubling to Rubin, who asserted that the army chief should have been promptly removed from the meeting. —*ANI*

140 cr Indians will pee & cause tsunami in Pak, says Mithun

KOLKATA, 12 AUG

Actor-turned-BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty sharply responded to Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's warning on the Indus Waters Treaty, threatening a series of BrahMos missile strikes. Chakraborty also made a bizarre claim that a dam would be built where 140 crore Indians would relieve themselves, unleashing a tsunami on Pak once opened. He clarified his anger was directed at the Pakistani establishment, not its peace-loving people. Bilawal had vowed Pakistan would resist any Indian attack on the Indus. Following the Pahalgam terror attack, India put the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance" as a punitive measure against Pakistan. —*PTI*

PM MODI SPEAKS TO UZBEK PRESIDENT

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a phone conversation with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, focusing on bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, connectivity, health and technology. The PM described his phone conversation with Mirziyoyev as "fruitful". The call, initiated by the Uzbek side, came ahead of the summit talks between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15 to discuss ways to end the Ukraine conflict. —*PTI*

'Abhi Picture Baki Hai', says Rahul

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the Election Commission (EC) of failing to uphold the constitutional principle of "one person, one vote", alleging systematic irregularities in the electoral rolls. Speaking outside Parliament, Gandhi claimed "vote theft" was taking place across multiple constituencies at a national level, and that both the EC and the opposition were aware of it.

As an example, he cited Minta Devi, a 124-year-old woman from Bihar allegedly listed as a first-time voter. "There are unlimited cases like that. Abhi picture baki hai," Gandhi said, adding that protecting the Constitution was his party's priority.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said there were numerous instances of fake names and addresses in rolls. Earlier, MPs from the INDIA bloc protested near Parliament's Makar Dwar, wearing white T-shirts featuring Minta Devi's photo and the slogan "124 Not Out".

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, TMC's Derek O'Brien, DMK's TR Baalu, NCP(SP)'s Supriya Sule and others demanded a rollback of the EC's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore accused EC, under Rajeev Kumar and Gyanesh Kumar, of acting as "a department of the BJP". He alleged the voter list was "full of fraud".

The SIR has triggered a parliamentary deadlock since 21 July, with proceedings repeatedly adjourned. On Monday, opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Kharge, attempted to march from Parliament to the EC office but were stopped by police and briefly detained. —*PTI*

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, party President Mallikarjun Kharge and party General Secretary KC Venugopal during a meeting PHOTO:PTI

Kerala Minister demands repoll in Thrissur LS

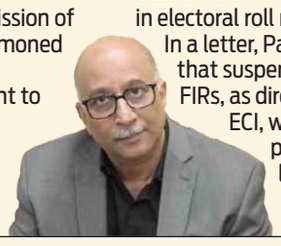
THRISSUR, 12 AUG

Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty has urged the Election Commission of India to hold a re-election in Thrissur, alleging large-scale manipulation of the voters' list. BJP's Suresh Gopi, now Union Minister of State, won in 2024 by over 74,000 votes. Sivankutty claimed 30,000–60,000 votes may have been added, with reports of multiple registrations at single addresses. He accused Gopi of staying silent to avoid admitting irregularities and called for his resignation. CPI leader VS Sunil Kumar has pledged to take the matter to court. BJP has not yet responded to the allegations. —*PTI*

EC summons Bengal Chief Secy over voter roll dispute

KOLKATA, 12 AUG

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has summoned West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant to Delhi by 5pm on 13 August after the state refused to suspend five officials accused of irregularities in electoral roll revision.



In a letter, Pant argued that suspensions and FIRs, as directed by the ECI, would be "disproportionately harsh" and risk "demoralising" officers. Instead, the state removed two from election duty and launched an internal inquiry. The move marks another flashpoint in tensions between the Mamata Banerjee government and the poll panel. —*PTI*

BJD to challenge election discrepancies in Orissa HC

BHUBANESWAR, 12 AUG

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) announced its intention to approach the Orissa High Court regarding "discrepancies" observed during the 2024 assembly and Lok Sabha polls. BJD spokesperson Amar Patnaik stated, "Around eight months ago, we submitted fact-based evidence to the Election Commission of India (ECI) but received no satisfactory response." He highlighted concerns including higher counted votes than cast, discrepancies between parliamentary and assembly votes, and substantial variations post-voting hours. The BJD also called for a comprehensive audit system for the electoral process and the full implementation of the VVPAT system. —*PTI*

ONOE PANEL

Experts suggest quota for women in political parties

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

A group of experts has advocated reservation for women in organisations of political parties and for empowering the Election Commission to oversee the working of inner-party democracy in their suggestions to the parliamentary committee scrutinising the simultaneous election bills.

The experts including former BJP MP Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, who has been associated with think tanks, appeared before the panel on Monday and extended their complete support to the concept of "one nation, one election".

Arguing that simultaneous elections will prove to be the "Mother of all Reforms", they said several other democratic reforms are much needed and submitted their "Charter of Suggestions for Democratic Reforms" to the panel headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary.

Besides Sahasrabuddhe, who is the founder vice chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership, other experts were G Gopal Reddy, Miranda House's governing body chairperson; Sushma Yadava, former pro vice chancellor, Central University of Haryana; Sheila Rai, general secretary of Rashtriya Samaj Vigyan Parishad; and Nani Gopal Mahanta, professor at Department of Political Science and Director, Centre for South East Asia, Gauhati University.

In their submission, they said steps are needed to make male politicians more sensitive to gender justice-related issues, and called for exploring the possibility of state governments mandating at least 30 per cent quota for women in "all elected bodies in all sectors" such as cooperative societies, housing bodies, university senate and management councils. —*PTI*

Sonia Gandhi, Kumari Mayawati and WB Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee PHOTO: PTI

5 MPs write to LS speaker over Air India flight fiasco

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Five Members of Parliament, including Congress leader KC Venugopal, have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu alleging a "breach of privilege" by Air India after a harrowing experience aboard flight AI 2455 from Thiruvananthapuram to Delhi on 10 August.

The MPs — Venugopal, K Suresh, Adoor Prakash, Robert Bruce (Congress), and K Radhakrishnan (CPI-M) — said the flight, initially delayed by over an hour, was marked by turbulence and lack of basic services. Midway, the pilot reported a weather radar failure and diverted the aircraft to Chennai, bypassing nearer airports like Bengaluru and Coimbatore, raising safety concerns. Upon reaching Chennai, the aircraft circled for over an hour before a failed landing attempt due to what the pilot described as "something" on the runway.

The plane landed safely on the second attempt, and passengers were flown to Delhi on a separate aircraft past midnight. —*PTI*

Temple demolition row: BJP Prez detained

HYDERABAD, 12 AUG

Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao was placed under house arrest for several hours on Tuesday as a preventive measure to avoid any law and order problem over a temple demolition issue in the city, police said.

The house arrest, which lasted from morning to about 4 pm, was part of measures to prevent any unrest as some Hindu outfits have called for a special puja at the Peddamma temple in Banjara Hills which was demolished last month, they said.

Hindu outfits have been agitating against the temple demolition.

Taking strong exception to his house arrest, Ramchander Rao alleged on X that the tyranny witnessed during the Nizam rule is being seen again under the present Congress government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

His "illegal house arrest" to prevent him from offering prayers at the reconstructed temple in Banjara Hills before participating in a 'Tiranga Yatra' amounts to an "attack on Hindu society", Rao said.

- The house arrest, which lasted from morning to about 4 pm, was part of measures to prevent any unrest as some Hindu outfits have called for a special puja at the Peddamma temple in Banjara Hills

"The lack of respect for Hindus by the Congress has been proven once again. This struggle will continue for devotion, security, and national pride," the BJP leader said.

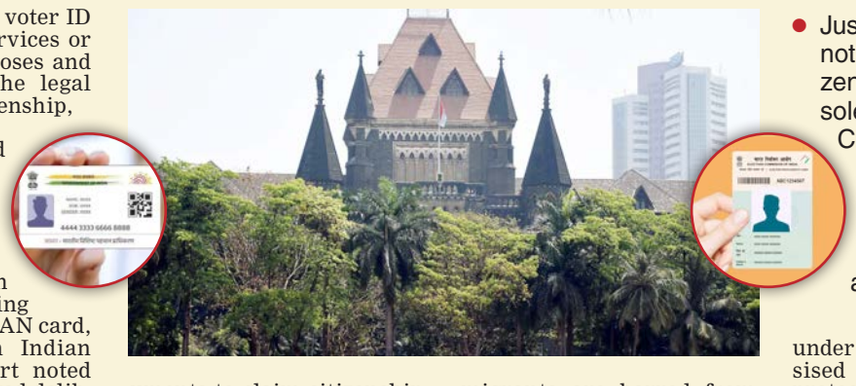
Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar alleged that the house arrest of Ramchander Rao reflects the "anarchy" during the Congress rule. —*PTI*

Aadhaar, Voter ID doesn't make you Indian: Bombay HC

MUMBAI, 12 AUG

Merely holding an Aadhaar card, PAN card or Voter ID does not make one an Indian citizen, the Bombay High Court said on Tuesday while denying bail to a man accused of being an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant.

Justice Amit Borkar, hearing the bail plea of Babu Abdul Ruf Sardar, noted that Indian citizenship is governed solely by the Citizenship Act, 1955, which lays down who qualifies as a citizen and how citizenship can be acquired or lost. Identity documents like Aadhaar, PAN and voter ID are for availing services or identification purposes and cannot override the legal framework of citizenship, the court said.



Sardar is accused of entering India illegally without valid documents and staying for over a decade using forged Indian documents, including an Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter ID, and an Indian passport. The court noted that his case involved deliberate identity concealment and the creation of fake documents to claim citizenship benefits.

The court said illegal migrants are barred from obtaining citizenship through most legal routes under the Act and emphasised that this distinction protects national sovereignty and ensures rights are reserved for lawful citizens.

- Justice Amit Borkar noted that Indian citizenship is governed solely by the Citizenship Act, 1955, which lays down who qualifies as a citizen and how citizenship can be acquired or lost.

Sardar claimed he was an Indian citizen with documents linked to income tax records and business registration in Thane since 2013. However, the prosecution argued that releasing him could result in him absconding and hinted at a possible larger network behind the forgery.

The court refused bail, citing ongoing investigations and genuine fears of the accused fleeing. It underlined that the Constitution empowered Parliament to define citizenship laws, especially in the wake of post-partition migration. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Woman raped in front of her sister in Jharkhand

MEDININAGAR, 12 AUG

A 22-year-old woman was allegedly raped by two people in front of her younger sister in Jharkhand's Palamu, and both the accused were arrested, police said on Tuesday. The woman lodged a complaint with the police on Monday, alleging that she and her sister were waiting at the Daltonganj station for a train to go to Punjab in search of a livelihood, and the two men, posing as policemen, took them to a deserted place and raped her, Palamu Superintendent of Police Reesma Ramesan said. "After the crime, when the two men were taking them on a motorcycle to Daltonganj station, the younger sister jumped off the two-wheeler and started screaming. Locals held the accused and handed them over to the police," Ramesan said. *—PTI*

Relative, 4 others gangrape minor in Odisha

KENDRAPARA, 12 AUG

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by five people, including one of her close relatives, at a village in Odisha's Kendrapara, police said on Tuesday. All five accused have been detained, an officer said. The 10th standard student lodged a complaint with the Rajnagar Police Station on Monday, alleging that a relative of the minor had visited her residence on Raksha Bandhan on 9 August, and taken her to a deserted place where she was gangraped, he said. The relative of the minor told her to visit a temple in the nearby village, but had taken her to the crime site, the officer said, citing the complaint. The minor also alleged that four others, who were near the place, raped her, he said. The accused threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the rape incident to her family, the officer said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Fire erupts on cargo flight engine, none hurt

CHENNAI, 12 AUG

A fire broke out in the fourth engine of an international cargo aircraft arriving from Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, but no injuries were reported. The incident occurred during landing at the city airport, prompting the pilots to alert ground authorities. Despite the malfunction, the crew landed the plane safely without declaring an emergency. Fire crews, already on standby, swiftly doused the flames once the aircraft came to a halt. Operations at the airport were not disrupted. *—PTI*

Kin of delivery agent killed in crash get Rs 23.75L

THANE, 12 AUG

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Thane has awarded Rs 23.75 lakh in compensation to the family of a 33-year-old delivery executive killed after a truck struck his motorcycle in March 2021. The tribunal found the truck driver solely negligent, noting he had the "last opportunity" to avoid the accident but its rear wheels crushed the victim. The driver was unlicensed, breaching the insurance terms, so the insurer must pay the sum with 9 per cent interest before recovering it from the owner. The victim's wife will receive Rs 11.75 lakh, his minor daughter Rs 9 lakh, and his father Rs 3 lakh, with portions placed in fixed deposits for long-term security. *—PTI*

Kerala moves SC over Guv's VC appointments

Govt argues Guv bypassed procedures laid down by SC

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

The Kerala government has approached the Supreme Court challenging Governor Rajendra Arlekar's reappointment of Ciza Thomas and K Sivaprasad as interim vice-chancellors of the Kerala University of Digital Sciences and the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University.

In its petition, the state government argued that the Governor, acting as the ex-officio Chancellor of state universities, bypassed procedures prescribed by the Supreme Court and acted unilaterally without consulting the government. The appointments date back to a notification issued on 27 November, 2024, by then-Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

On 19 May, a single bench of Kerala High Court struck down the appointments, allowing the incumbents to continue until 27 May to avoid disruption. A division bench later upheld the verdict, ruling that temporary VCs could be appointed for six months and strictly from a panel recommended by the state government, in accordance with UGC norms.

The state submitted three nominees for each post. However, the Governor approached the Supreme Court instead of selecting from the panel. On 31 July, the Court let him make temporary appointments until permanent ones were finalised.

Arlekar reappointed Thomas and Sivaprasad on 1 August, citing the Supreme Court order. The state argues that the order requires appointments to be made per Section 13(7) of the Kerala Technology University Act and Section 11(10) of the Digital University Act—both mandating a state-recommended panel.

This clash follows a broader tussle over university governance in Kerala, including a 2023 bill to remove the Governor as Chancellor, which awaits Presidential assent. *—Agencies*

SC restrains cops from action against The Wire's Varadarajan

The Supreme Court on Tuesday barred Assam Police from taking coercive action against journalist Siddharth Varadarajan over an FIR filed by Morigaon police on 11 July. The case followed an article in The Wire headlined 'IAF Lost Fighter Jets to Pak Because of Political Leadership's Constraints': Indian Defence Attache'. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi issued notice on a PIL by Foundation for Independent Journalism, challenging the constitutional validity of Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which concerns acts endangering India's sovereignty. *PTI*

SC halts action against owners of old vehicles in Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

In a significant relief for owners of older vehicles in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court has ordered authorities to refrain from taking coercive action against them. The ruling applies to diesel vehicles exceeding 10 years of age and petrol vehicles over 15 years old.

This decision follows a plea seeking to recall a previous order that upheld a National Green Tribunal (NGT) directive enforcing a blanket ban on such vehicles due to rising air pollution levels.

The court's bench, led by Chief Justice BR Gavai, issued a notice to the Delhi government regarding the blanket ban and directed that no punitive measures be taken against old vehicle owners.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that the ban forced people to sell their vehicles unnecessarily, highlighting that many owners use them infrequently.

He requested a comprehensive study to evaluate the environmental impact of age-based restrictions compared to emission-based criteria. The case will be revisited in four weeks. *—PTI*

CHARGESHEET STATES...

'Andhra liquor scam kickbacks laundered through office boys'

AMARAVATI, 12 AUG

A chargesheet filed by the Andhra Pradesh police in the alleged Rs 3,500-crore liquor scam alleges that the kickbacks were systematically laundered through low-profile individuals, such as office boys or employees.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged liquor scam filed a supplementary chargesheet on Monday.

"Such employees and individuals acted as couriers and mules for depositing illicit cash into a network of bank accounts linked to the syndicate," officials said.

This pattern of cash layering and circulation demonstrates a deliberate attempt to conceal the origin of crime proceeds, constituting a classic case of structured money laundering and concealment under the garb of petty deposits, they said.

A portion of the liquor kickbacks was transferred to the employees and associates of the accused as salary, they further said adding it was also observed that several of such low-profile individuals were made to send the cash deposited into their account to other accused.

The SIT probing the alleged liquor scam arrested several people, including **YSRCP Lok Sabha member PV Midhun Reddy**. In May, the Enforcement Directorate also filed a money laundering case to investigate the alleged liquor scam.

The federal probe agency has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA.

The previous chargesheet filed last month mentioned former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as the recipient of kickbacks averaging Rs 50-Rs 60 crore per month. *— PTI*

RADAR-BASED SEARCH ON FOR 66 MISSING IN UTTARKASHI DISASTER

UTTARKASHI, 12 AUG

A team from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has begun a search operation using Ground Penetrating Radars (GPRs) to trace 66 people missing in flood-hit Dharali village, including 24 Nepali labourers. The village was devastated by floods and mudslides on August 5.

The Hyderabad-based NGRI team arrived on Monday and is using GPRs to detect human presence beneath debris, even in muddy and waterlogged conditions. The same technology was previously used during the SLBC tunnel collapse in Telangana.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed officials to identify disaster-sensitive zones and banned new settlements or construction in such areas.

Heavy rain on Monday hindered search and road restoration efforts. A JCB operator went missing after being swept away by the Bhagirathi river during restoration work. His search is ongoing. Among the 66 still missing are nine Army men, 13 from Bihar, six from Uttar Pradesh among others. *—PTI*

Search and rescue operation underway following flash floods, in Uttarkashi PHOTO: PTI

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER PRANK

Now, Bihar cat seeks residence certificate

PATNA, 12 AUG

In yet another bizarre case of online mischief in Bihar, a residence certificate application was filed in the name of a cat – 'Cat Kumar' – in Rohtas district's Nasriganj block.

The prank application, dated July 29, featured a hazel-eyed feline in the photograph section and listed the parents as 'Catty Boss' and 'Catiya Devi'. Officials said the application was immediately rejected once noticed.

District Magistrate Udita Singh took serious note of the incident, calling it a misuse of technology that disrupted official work and tarnished the administration's image. An FIR has been lodged at Nasriganj police station. If found fake, cyber experts will track the culprit via their IP address.

This marks the fifth such case in Bihar, sparked by a scramble for residence certificates after a special revision of electoral rolls was announced.

Previously, prank applications were submitted in the names of 'Dog Babu' and 'Dogesh Babu' in Patna and Nawada, respectively. Samastipur witnessed perhaps the boldest prank yet – a certificate request for US President Donald Trump, complete with photograph and fictitious parent names. *—PTI*

Tamil lyricist's 'Ram lost his mind' remark flayed

CHENNAI, 12 AUG

Renowned Tamil lyricist Vairamuthu has triggered controversy with his recent remarks on Lord Ram, suggesting that Ram had "lost his mind" following his separation from Sita. The comments, made at an event in Chennai where he received an award named after Tamil poet Kamban, have drawn strong backlash from BJP and VHP.

Vairamuthu referenced the killing of Vali by Ram during his duel with Sugreeva, saying neither Valmiki nor Vali forgave Ram, and "nor was the world ready to do so." He added that Kamban, through his Kamba Ramayanam, forgives Ram by portraying him as human, saying Ram's actions were due to emotional turmoil and not criminal intent.

BJP's Tamil Nadu spokesperson Narayanan Thirupathy lashed out, calling Vairamuthu a "fool," stating, "Vali was punished for claiming his brother's wife as his own. Ram was justified in killing him, from any angle." He accused Vairamuthu and his supporters of consistently attacking Hindu beliefs, calling it a "Dravida Model" trait.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad labelled Vairamuthu a "clown" and plans to demand his arrest. Vairamuthu faced backlash in 2018 over comments about Vaishnavite saint Andal. He later apologised. *—PTI*

TN to now home deliver ration items to elderly

CHENNAI, 12 AUG

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday launched the "Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme" to deliver ration items directly to the homes of over 21 lakh beneficiaries, primarily senior citizens aged over 70 and differently abled individuals.

Chief Minister MK Stalin flagged off delivery vehicles in Chennai and handed over essential commodities to beneficiaries. The scheme, implemented by the Cooperative Department, will operate across 34,809 of the state's 37,328 fair price shops. It is expected to benefit 21,70,454 people, including 20.42 lakh senior citizens and 1.27 lakh differently abled persons.

Stalin said the Rs 30.16 crore cost of the initiative is not viewed as an expense but as a "life-saving responsibility" of the government. "Tamil Nadu is free of starvation deaths because we run these shops efficiently," he added.

Ration items will be delivered every second Saturday and Sunday. *—PTI*

CM MK Stalin flagged off the scheme PHOTO: X/MK STALIN

'THEY ARE DELHIITES TOO'

John writes to CJI against order on dogs

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Actor John Abraham has written to Chief Justice B R Gavai urging a review of the Supreme Court's recent directive to relocate all stray dogs from Delhi-NCR streets to shelters. The order, issued Monday, mandates authorities to house strays in shelters "at the earliest" due to increasing dog bite cases, particularly among children.

Abraham, PETA India's honorary director, called the move impractical and inhumane, arguing it contradicts the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, and earlier apex court rulings supporting sterilisation, vaccination, and return of community dogs.

"These are not 'strays' but community dogs, loved and respected by many, and very much Delhiites in their own right," he wrote, citing Jaipur and Lucknow as examples where the ABC programme has worked effectively.

John Abraham PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also criticised the order, calling it "horrendously inhumane" and said dogs are "gentle creatures who don't deserve such cruelty."

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi said that the directive is a step back from decades of humane, science-backed policy.

The court has asked Delhi and civic authorities of Gurugram, Noida, and Ghaziabad to begin by sheltering 5,000 dogs in 6–8 weeks.

Bollywood figures, including Janhvi Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Chinmayi Sripaada, Varun Grover, and Vir Das, joined in condemnation. Kapoor and Dhawan shared a message on Instagram: "They call it a menace. We call it a heartbeat... No sunlight. No freedom. No familiar faces they greet every morning." *—PTI*

> **You have 3 lakh dogs in Delhi. To get them all off the roads, you'll have to make 3,000 pounds, each with drainage, water, a shed, a kitchen, and a watchman. That will cost about Rs 15,000 crore. Does Delhi have Rs 15,000 crore for this?**
>
> -Maneka Gandhi,
> animal rights activist and former Union minister

Sports Bill: Landmark move promising revamp of sports

The National Sports Governance Bill, which has been passed by both houses of Parliament, is a landmark move to revamp and standardise India's sports administration.

A day after Lok Sabha's approval, the bill was cleared in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday after extensive discussion.

PTI presents an overview of its salient features that promise to overhaul several aspects of sports governance and the grievance redressal system for athletes and administrators alike in the country. The bill now awaits a presidential assent to become an act, which is not likely to take too long.

After this a gazette notification will be brought out by the government.

Indian women's cricket team, Indian women's hockey team, Indian men's football team, and Indian men's hockey team
PHOTO: PTI

Age and tenure cap

The bill fixes the tenure limit at three consecutive terms adding up to 12 years for the posts of President, Secretary General and Treasurer in sports bodies. The age cap has been kept at 70, extending up to 75 at the time of nomination if permitted by the international charter and statutes of the concerned sport.

The Executive Committee strength of a sports body has been capped at 15 to ensure that the financial burden on the federation is not high. The EC would be mandated to have at least two sportspersons of outstanding merit and four women in the ranks.

The provision is in line with the international push to ensure gender parity in sports governance and make athletes a prominent stakeholder in decision-making process.

National Sports Board

The National Sports Board (NSB) will have overriding powers to grant or suspend recognition of all National Sports Federations (NSFs) and even "collaborate" with the international federations for athlete welfare.

The NSB will comprise a chairperson, and its members will be appointed by the central government from "amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing."

The appointments would be done based on the recommendations of a search-cum-selection committee, which would have the Cabinet Secretary or Secretary Sports as chairperson.

The other members of this panel will be the Director General of the Sports Authority of India, two sports administrators who have each served as the President or Secretary General or Treasurer of a National Sports Body and one eminent sportsperson who is a Dronacharya, or Khel Ratna or Arjuna awardee.

The Board has been empowered to de-recognise a national body that fails to hold elections for its Executive Committee or has committed "gross irregularities in the election procedures."

In addition, failure to publish annual audited accounts or "misused, misapplied or misappropriated public funds" would also invite suspension from the NSB but it would be required to consult the concerned global body before proceeding.

Only a recognised sports organisation will be eligible to receive grants or any other financial assistance from the central government.

National Sports Tribunal

According to the Sports Ministry, over 350 cases are currently in progress in various courts of the country over issues ranging from selection to election, significantly hampering the progress of athletes and NSFs. The setting up of a National Sports Tribunal promises to end that for good as it would have "all the powers of a civil court."

It will comprise a chairperson and two other members. The head of the Tribunal would be a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court.

The appointments to this would also be in the hands of the central government based on recommendations of a committee that will be headed by Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge recommended by the CJI and comprise the Sports Secretary and Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The central government will have the power to remove its members in case of violations, including financial irregularities and actions prejudicial to "public interest".

The orders of this Tribunal would only be challengeable in the Supreme Court, which will ensure that no lower court would be involved in deciding disputes related to sports, making "jurisprudence stable and faster".

> **Today is a day of immense personal and national significance. I have long awaited this moment**
>
> -MPT Usha, Indian Olympic Association President

> **Through this reform, the sports sector of the country will change. Twenty countries in the world have a sports law, India will now be an equal to them**
>
> -Mansukh Mandaviya, Sports Minister

The appeal will also have to be filed within 30 days of the tribunal's decision but the Supreme Court will have the authority to decide if a filing can be done on the expiry of the deadline.

National Sports Election Panel

This too shall be appointed by the central government on the recommendation of the National Sports Board. The panel will be made up of retired members of the Election Commission of India or the State Election Commission or retired Chief Electoral Officers of the States or Deputy Election Commissioners, with "adequate experience".

The panel will act as "electoral officers" to oversee the conduct of free and fair elections to Executive Committees and the Athletes Committee of the sports bodies.

The Board shall maintain a roster of the National Sports Election Panel, in such manner as may be prescribed.

RTI

All recognised sports organisations, which are dependent on government funding and support, will be covered under the Right to Information Act, 2005 "with respect to the exercise of its functions, duties and powers."

This ensures that the BCCI, which is not relying on ministry funding, will readily come under the bill's ambit. It will have to register itself as an NSF with the NSB as cricket is set to debut as an Olympic sport in the 2028 Games in the T20 format.

Govt's discretionary powers

Any sports organisation wanting to use the word "India" or "Indian" or "National" or any national insignia or symbols will have to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the central government.

The central government, if it considers "necessary" and expedient in the public interest, will have also have the power to "relax" any of the provisions mentioned in the bill.

In addition, the government can also give such directions to the National Sports Board or any other person or entity for the "efficient administration" of the provisions of this bill.

The government will also be authorised to "impose reasonable restrictions on the participation of any national team of a concerned sport" under extraordinary circumstances and in the national interest. *—PTI*

SALAR

Trump's DC cop takeover echoes history of racism

President Donald Trump has taken control of the District of Columbia's law enforcement and ordered National Guard troops to deploy onto the streets of the nation's capital, arguing the extraordinary moves are in response to an urgent public safety crisis.

Even as district officials questioned the claims underlying his emergency declaration, the president promised a "historic action to rescue our nation's capital from crime, bloodshed, bedlam and squalor and worse."

His rhetoric echoed that used by conservative politicians going back decades who have denounced American cities, especially those with majority non-white populations or led by progressive politicians, as lawless or crime-ridden and in need of outside intervention. "This is liberation day in DC, and we're going to take our capital back," Trump promised Monday.

Civil rights advocates see the President's rhetoric as part of a broader political strategy
PHOTO: PTI

Trump's action echoes uncomfortable historical chapters

But for many residents, the prospect of federal troops surging into the district's neighbourhoods represents an alarming violation of local agency.

To some, it echoes uncomfortable historical chapters when politicians used language to paint historically or predominantly Black cities and neighbourhoods with racist narratives to shape public opinion and justify aggressive police action.

April Goggans, a longtime Washington resident and grassroots organiser, said she was not surprised by Trump's actions. Communities had been preparing for a potential federal crackdown in the district since the summer of 2020, when Trump deployed National Guard troops during racial justice protests after the murder of George Floyd.

"We have to be vigilant," said Goggans, who has coordinated protests and local civil liberties educational campaigns for nearly a decade. She worries about what a surge in law enforcement could mean for residents' freedoms.

Uncertainty about what's a safe environment raises alarms

According to White House officials, National Guard troops will be deployed to protect federal assets in the district and facilitate a safe environment for law enforcement to make arrests. The administration believes the highly visible presence of law enforcement will deter violent crime.

It is unclear how the administration defines providing a safe environment for law enforcement to conduct arrests, raising alarm bells for some local advocates.

"The President foreshadowed that if these heavy-handed tactics take root here, they will be rolled out to other majority-Black and Brown cities, like Chicago, Oakland and Baltimore, across the country," said Monica Hopkins, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union's DC chapter.

A history of denigrating language

Conservative lawmakers have for generations used denigrating language to describe the condition of major American cities and called for greater law enforcement, often in response to changing demographics in those cities driven by nonwhite populations relocating in search of work or safety from racial discrimination and state violence. Republicans have called for greater police crackdowns in cities since at least the 1965 Watts Riots in Los Angeles.

President Richard Nixon won the White House in 1968 after campaigning on a "law and order" agenda to appeal to white voters in northern cities alongside overtures to white Southerners as part of his "Southern Strategy."

Ronald Reagan similarly won both his presidential elections after campaigning heavily on law and order politics. Politicians ranging from former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani to former President Bill Clinton have cited the need to tamp down crime as a reason to seize power from cities like Washington for decades.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser called Trump's takeover of the local police force "unsettling" but not without precedent. The mayor kept a mostly measured tone during a Monday news conference following Trump's announcement but decried the president's reasoning as a "so-called emergency" and said the district's residents "know that access to our democracy is tenuous."

Trump threatened to "take over" and "beautify" the nation's capital on the campaign trail and claimed the district was "a nightmare of murder and crime." He also argued the city was "horribly run" and said his team intended "to take it away from the mayor."

The President repeated comments he'd previously made about some of the nation's largest cities during his news conference, including Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland, California, and his hometown of New York City. All are currently run by Black mayors.

Civil rights advocates see the President's rhetoric as part of a broader political strategy.

"It's a playbook he's used in the past," said Maya Wiley, CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

The President's rhetoric "paints a picture that crime is out of control, even when it is not true, then blames the policies of Democratic lawmakers that are reform- and public safety-minded, and then claims that you have to step in and violate people's rights or demand that reforms be reversed," Wiley said.

Civil rights leaders denounce DC order as unjustified distraction

Trump's actions in Washington and comments about other major American cities sent shock waves across the country, as other cities prepare to respond to potential federal action.

Democratic Maryland Guv Wes Moore said Trump's plan "lacks seriousness and is deeply dangerous" in a statement and pointed to a 30-year-low crime rate in Baltimore as a reason the administration should consult local leaders rather than antagonize them. In Oakland, Mayor Barbara Lee called Trump's characterization of the city "fearmongering." *—PTI*

LETTERS

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MIXED REACTIONS OVER SC'S ORDER ON STRAY DOGS

The Supreme Court's (SC) order to remove all stray dogs from Delhi-NCR localities on Monday sparked mixed reactions. While RWAs have welcomed the order, animal rights activists including Maneka Gandhi argued that civic bodies lack the land and funds to carry out the "mammoth" task and warned it could worsen human-dog conflict.

Former Union minister Vijay Goel also hailed the top court's order on the shifting of stray dogs to shelter homes as an endorsement of his 'no dogs on streets policy' demand.

Terming the court's directive for the Delhi government and civic bodies as one of the most "regressive ideas" to date, activists said the order has caused panic among everyone -- from dog feeders to animal lovers in general.

"It's such a childish order from a SC judge, which has to be challenged and will be challenged for sure... There is absolutely no infrastructure to execute such an order. The one MCD and other corporations, if I include NCR, cannot sterilize or vaccinate dogs properly. Now, how can they plan a massive thing like this?" said an angry Nikhil Mahesh, founder of Umeed for Animals Foundation -- a rescue and rehabilitation centre in Gurugram.

"You need an immense land bank. You need massive funds. It is an impulsive reaction. They clearly didn't think it through. Mark my words, this will only increase panic between people and dogs," Mahesh said.

The animal activist has been flooded with frantic calls from dog feeders and worried animal lovers since the order was issued.

Animal rights activist and former Union minister Maneka Gandhi called the directive "impractical", "financially unviable" and "potentially harmful" to the region's ecological balance.

Gandhi said that the scale of the task makes it "unworkable".

"You have three lakh dogs in Delhi. To get them all off the roads, you'll have to make 3,000 pounds, each with drainage, water, a shed, a kitchen, and a watchman. That will cost about Rs 15,000 crore. Does Delhi have Rs 15,000 crore for this?" she told PTI.

Several animal welfare organisations also criticised the Supreme Court's order, calling the move "unscientific and ineffective".

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India said the forced removal of Delhi's community dogs, estimated at around 10 lakh, would create "chaos and suffering" for both the animals and residents.

A security personnel tries to stop a man during a demonstration for stray dogs, at Connaught Place, in New Delhi, on Tuesday
PHOTO: PTI

"Displacement and jailing of dogs has never worked," said Dr Mini Aravindan, senior director of veterinary affairs at PETA India.

She said the government should instead strengthen sterilisation and vaccination programmes, close illegal pet shops and breeders, and encourage adoption.

Alokparna Sengupta, managing director of Humane World for Animals India, called the move "misguided" and "counterproductive".

While issuing a series of directions to address the growing menace of dog bite incidents, the Supreme Court on Monday warned that strict action would be taken against any individual or organisation obstructing the authorities from picking up stray dogs.

The bench, comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, further clarified that while it would hear arguments from the Centre, petitions from dog lovers or other parties on the matter would not be entertained.

Atul Goyal, President of United Resident Joint Action (URJA), an apex body of RWAs in the national capital, said dog bite cases have been rising steadily, and this order will help provide relief from the problem.

Vandana Thapliyal, whose neighbour was recently bitten by a stray dog, called the top court's order a step in the right direction.

Former Union minister Goel claimed that on average, around 2,000 dog bites were reported in Delhi alone, and this figure could be around 5,000 if the National Capital Region (NCR) were included.

The former Delhi BJP president has been running a movement for a solution to the growing menace of stray dogs through a non-profit organisation, Lok Abhiyan, for the last two years.

In contrast, pet parent Natasha Srivastava described the blanket directive from the top court as "insufficiently informed", reflecting the growing divide between dog lovers and "stray nayers".

According to the data of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and various surveys, Delhi alone has an estimated stray dog population of around 10 lakh.

Vasundhara Anand, co-founder of NGO Kvaab Welfare Foundation, called the top court's "regressive" decision far from a real solution, and the one that will only fuel more conflicts between humans and dogs, as well as increase hostility toward dog feeders.

"There is no wherewithal to execute this. Forget everything — where will you even find these 10 lakh dogs? Finding them isn't easy. We, the feeders, can't catch hold of them — how will they round up all of them?

"The truth is, they just want to raise an issue, not solve it. The solution is also funding mobile units and ensuring access to rabies vaccinations, which the administration have failed to do," she added.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the stray dog menace has assumed gigantic proportion and assured that the government will soon come up with a policy and implement the Supreme Court's order in a planned manner.

"Delhi people are fed up of stray dogs. We have been discussing on the issue. The Supreme Court's directions are important... We will form a policy and provide relief to people," Gupta said.

Data from Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) shows that dog bite cases in Delhi rose from 6,691 in 2022 to 17,874 in 2023, and further to 25,210 in 2024.

Reiterating the need for a proper solution, including effective sterilization drives, Niti Jha from the NGO Niti Jeev Ashray Animal Welfare said the idea of confining free-roaming stray dogs to shelters would only make them sick. *—PTI*

Israelis told to stay indoors amid heatwave

TEL AVIV, 12 AUG

As Israel endures its most severe heatwave in a century, authorities have issued urgent advisories for the public. The Ministry of Health recommends that seniors and individuals with chronic illnesses "avoid staying outdoors and being exposed to heat and sun as much as possible." The temperatures are forecast to hover around 50 degrees Celsius in many regions across the country. Citizens are urged to "drink water frequently" and remain in air-conditioned spaces while minimising physical exertion. Additionally, a fire ban has been enforced by the Fire and Rescue Commissioner, prohibiting open flames across the country until midnight on 31 August, 2025. Residents were advised to wear protective clothing when outdoors. *—ANI*

Pak kills 50 militants at Afghan border over 4 days

ISLAMABAD, 12 AUG

The Pakistan Army announced on Tuesday that it has killed 50 militants, including members of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), during a four-day operation near the Afghanistan border in Balochistan province. This region is vital for Chinese infrastructure projects, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and has seen increased insurgent activity. The military stated that the operations targeted militants in areas with ongoing major mining projects. "Militant activity in the province poses a significant threat to economic development," stated security analysts. Tensions between Pakistan's security forces and the TTP have escalated since the Taliban's seized power in 2021. *—PTI*

Trump extends tariff truce with China for 90 days

Says everything will remain the same, China reciprocates

WASHINGTON, 12 AUG

US President Donald Trump extended a trade truce with China for another 90 days on Monday, at least delaying once again a dangerous showdown between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that he signed the executive order for the extension, and that "all other elements of the Agreement will remain the same."

The previous deadline was set to expire at 12.01am on Tuesday. Had that happened the US could have ratcheted up taxes on Chinese imports from an already high 30 per cent, and Beijing could have responded by raising retaliatory levies on US exports to China.

The pause buys time for the two countries to work out some of their differences, perhaps clearing the way for a summit later this year between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"I have just signed an Executive Order that will extend the Tariff Suspension on China for another 90 days. All other elements of the Agreement will remain the same," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

According to the new order, "(China) continues to take significant steps toward remedying non-reciprocal trade arrangements and addressing the concerns of the US relating to economic and national security matters."

China said Tuesday it would extend relief to American companies who were placed on an export control list and an unreliable entities list. After Trump initially announced tariffs in April, China restricted exports of dual-use goods to some American companies, while banning others from trading or investing in China.

The Ministry of Commerce said it would stop those restrictions for some companies, while giving others another 90-day extension. *—PTI/ANI*

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping had earlier levied three-digit tariffs on each other's nation *PHOTO: X*

S Korean Prez to meet Trump on 25 August

South Korea's new President Lee Jae Myung will travel to Washington later this month to meet with Trump, Lee's office said Tuesday, for talks on trade and defence cooperation in the face of nuclear-armed North Korea and other threats. Their 25 August summit will follow a July trade deal in which Washington agreed to cut its reciprocal tariff on South Korea to 15 per cent from the initially proposed 25 per cent.

Conservative to head Bureau of Labour Statistics

Trump said that he nominated EJ Antoni, Chief Economist at the conservative Heritage Foundation, to head the agency that compiles and publishes the nation's employment and inflation figures. Antoni, if approved by the Senate, will replace Erika McEntarfer, who was appointed commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics by Joe Biden. Trump fired her after the a report showed hiring slowed sharply in spring.

Win for Munir: US tags Baloch Liberation Army as a terror outfit

The US Department of State has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its alias, the Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), adding that the Majeed Brigade as an alias to BLA's previous Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) designation. The BLA was previously designated as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) in 2019 after carrying out several terrorist attacks. Since 2019, BLA has claimed responsibility for additional attacks, including by the Majeed Brigade.

US President Donald Trump said that it was hypocritical of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy *PHOTO: X*

Trump flays Zelenskyy for not ceding territory

WASHINGTON, 12 AUG

US President Donald Trump said he "disagrees very, very severely" with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy over the latter's refusal to territory to Russia.

"I get along with Zelenskyy, but, you know, I disagree with what he's done. Very, very severely disagree. This is a war that should have never happened," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday.

Trump is set to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday in Alaska to discuss a ceasefire. Trump reiterated his suggested that some territorial swapping is for "the betterment of both" countries, a proposal Zelenskyy has outright rejected.

"I was a little bothered by the fact that Zelenskyy was saying, 'Well, I have to get constitutional approval.' I mean, he's got approval to go into war and kill everybody, but he needs approval to do a land swap -- because there'll be some land swapping going on," Trump said.

Trump appeared optimistic about the meeting with Putin, saying, "In the first two minutes, I'll know exactly whether or not a deal can be made".

Trump also said that he wanted to Zelenskyy and Putin to meet

"The next meeting will be with Zelenskyy and Putin, or Zelenskyy and Putin and me. I'll be there if they need me, but I want to have a meeting set up between the two leaders," Trump said.

- EU said in a statement that, "(Ukraine has) the inherent right to choose its own destiny," and it "will continue supporting Ukraine on its path towards EU membership."

'RUSSIA PLANS TO INCREASE ATTACK'

Zelenskyy, meanwhile called out Trump's optimism, saying that Ukrainian intelligence suggests that Putin is readying his troops for "new offensive operations".

"He is definitely not preparing for a ceasefire or an end to the war," Zelenskyy said on X Monday night. "There is no indication whatsoever that the Russians have received signals to prepare for a post-war situation".

"They are redeploying their troops and forces in ways that suggest preparations for new offensive operations," he added. *—Agencies*

Plane crashes into parked aircraft in Montana

KALISPELL, 12 AUG

A small plane crash-landed on Monday at Kalispell City Airport, colliding with several parked aircraft and igniting a significant fire, though no serious injuries were reported. The single-engine aircraft, carrying four passengers, attempted to land at around 2pm but lost control, according to Kalispell Police Chief Jordan Venezio and the Federal Aviation Administration. "The passengers were able to get out on their own after it came to a stop," said Kalispell Fire Chief Jay Hagen, noting two individuals were treated for minor injuries. The flight originated from Pullman, Washington, and involved a 2011 Socata TBM 700 turboprop. *—PTI*

Taylor to drop 12th album 'The Life of a Showgirl'

NEW YORK, 12 AUG

Global pop sensation Taylor Swift has officially announced her 12th studio album, titled 'The Life of a Showgirl,' following a cryptic countdown on her official website. The announcement came at precisely 12.12am on Tuesday, coinciding with the significance of the album number. While a release date remains undisclosed, vinyl editions will be sent to fans before 13 October. The forthcoming album follows her 2024 release, 'The Tortured Poets Department'. This will mark her first release since regaining control over her entire catalogue. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS

Shooter kills 3 outside Texas Target

AUSTIN, 12 AUG

A gunman opened fire on Monday in the parking lot of a Target store in Texas' capital, killing two adults and a child before stealing two cars during a getaway that ended with police using a Taser to detain him on the other side of the city, authorities said.

Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said the suspect is a man in his 30s with "a mental health history." Police said they were still working to determine a motive.

The suspect fled the scene in a stolen car, wrecked that car and then stole another from a dealership, Davis said. He was captured about 30km away, in south Austin.

Davis said they believe one of the people who was shot was the owner of the car stolen from the store's parking lot.

An adult and child were pronounced dead at the scene, according to Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services. *—PTI*

RSF kills over 40 civilians in Sudan's Darfur

DARFUR, 12 AUG

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have attacked the famine-stricken Abu Shouk camp in Darfur, resulting in at least 40 civilian deaths, according to first responders. Local reports say the RSF stormed the camp on Monday, opening fire on residents in their homes and on the streets. The Emergency Response Room, a volunteer aid network, said that "civilians were killed either by stray bullets or direct executions" during the assault near el-Fasher, the last major city in Darfur still controlled by the Sudanese army.

El-Fasher has been besieged by the RSF since May 2024, with renewed offensives following the RSF's expulsion from Khartoum in March. The conflict resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and millions displaced, the UN's largest displacement and hunger crisis. *—Agencies*

Displaced Palestinians travel on carts and vehicles through a makeshift camp along Gaza beach *PHOTO: PTI*

Israel kills 67 Palestinians in Gaza, 5 more starve to death

DARFUR, 12 AUG

At least five people starved to death in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. This comes as Israel killed at least 67 Palestinians since dawn on Tuesday, hospital sources in Gaza told Al Jazeera.

Tuesday's starvation deaths included two children. The total number of hunger-related deaths since the start of Israel's war has increased to 227, including over 100 children.

Israel also bombed southern Lebanon, injuring two people. One of them was injured critically, the National News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that less than half of Gaza's hospitals are operational to any degree, while only 38 per cent of the primary healthcare centres are partly functional.

Meanwhile, a day after announcing that his Australia will recognise a Palestinian state, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "in denial" about the suffering inflicted on Gaza, and the international community is now saying, "Enough is enough". *—Agencies*

Iran detained 21,000 suspects during Israel war

TEHRAN, 12 AUG

Iran's police detained 21,000 suspects during the 12-day air war between Israel and Iran in June, state media reported on Tuesday.

Police spokesperson, Gen Saeed Montazeralmahdi told the state-run TV that citizens reported suspects to authorities.

"The arrest of 21,000 suspects during the 12-day war indicated high awareness and participation of people in providing security," he said. Montazeralmahdi did not elaborate on what charges the suspects might face.

However, he said more than 260 were suspected of spying and other 172 were arrested because of illegal filming.

He added that police put more than 1,000 checkpoints across the country during the conflict, between 13-24 June.

This is the first time Iran's police has given a total number of arrests during the war. In recent weeks Iran occasionally reported about the arrests of suspects on spying charges.

Since the end of June, Iran has executed seven men convicted of spying for Israel. *—PTI*

'THE POOREST OF THE POOR'

Cambodian migrants fleeing Thailand face a tough future

KAMRIENG, 12 AUG

Hundreds of thousands of Cambodian migrant workers have been heading home from Thailand as the two countries work to keep a ceasefire in armed clashes along their border. Rights groups describing the migrants as the "poorest of the poor" .

Tensions between the countries have escalated due to disputes over pockets of land along their 800km border. A five-day clash in July left at least 43 people dead and displaced more than 2,60,000 in both Southeast Asian nations. A fragile ceasefire brokered by Malaysia, with backing from the US and China, appears to be holding.

Cambodia's Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training estimates 1.2 million Cambodians were working in Thailand when the border disputes began to escalate in June. Estimates vary, but Sun Mesa, a ministry spokesman said at least 780,000 — about 65 per cent — have returned to Cambodia.

Migrant workers fill vital roles in Thailand's farming, construction and manufacturing industries. They also send home close to USD 3 billion in remittances each year, according to labour ministry data. The loss of that income can be devastating for families relying on it to manage big debts.

An overseas advocacy group, the Khmer Movement for Democracy, has urged the government to defer loan payments and provide incentives for companies to hire returning migrants.

"Without economic safeguards, families of returning migrants will not be able to repay their debts," said Mu Sochua, the group's President. "We are talking about the poorest of the poor." *—PTI*

Will act in 'self-defence', says Thailand

Thailand warned that it may have to "exercise the right of self-defence" in response to continuing incidents it blames on Cambodia, in which Thai soldiers patrolling along the border have been wounded by land mines. "This incident serves as clear evidence that the Cambodian side has violated the ceasefire agreement and shows no respect for international humanitarian law," said Thai Army spokesperson Maj Gen Winthai Suvaree.

Migrants re-enter Cambodia through the Daung International Border Check Point between Cambodia and Thailand *PHOTO: PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Gold plunges by Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,01,520/10g

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Gold prices plunged Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,01,520 per 10g in the national capital on Tuesday in line with a sell-off in global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 1,02,520 per 10g. In the local markets, gold of 99.5 per cent purity dipped Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,01,100 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. On Tuesday, the rupee edged higher by 10 paise to 87.65 against the US Dollar in early trade. On the global front, spot gold was trading at USD 3,347.18 per ounce, up by 0.13 per cent in New York. *—PTI*

Rupee rises by 3P, closes at 87.72 against USD

MUMBAI, 12 AUG

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range to settle just 3 paise higher at 87.72 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a negative trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee is trading in a tight range as a late decline in domestic markets and foreign fund outflows capped sharp gains for the domestic unit. Moreover, there is an overall negative bias amid uncertainties over the trade tariff issue between India and the US. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 87.70 and moved in a range of 87.59-87.72 during the day before settling at 87.72 (provisional), just 3 paise higher than its previous close. On Monday, the domestic unit closed at 87.75 against the US dollar.*—PTI*

DPIIT inks pact with HMC, Zepto to support startups

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Tuesday said it has inked pacts with Hero MotoCorp (HMC) and Zepto to help startups. The MoU with Hero MotoCorp Ltd aims at supporting early-stage startups and entrepreneurs. "DPIIT and Hero MotoCorp will jointly support start-ups," it said, adding the partnership will provide selected startups with exclusive access to Hero MotoCorp's research and development facilities in Germany and India, the network of dealers, suppliers and partners, along with mentorship. "The shortlisted startups will also have the opportunity to work on the paid Proofs of Concept, enabling successful pilots and unlocking valuable market exposure to accelerate the growth of their innovations," it added. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Powerica Ltd files Rs 1,400 cr IPO with SEBI

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Power solutions provider Powerica Ltd has submitted preliminary documents to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise Rs 1,400 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The offering comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 700 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of shares valued at Rs 700 crore by promoters. The Naresh Oberoi Family Trust and the Kabir and Kimaya Family Private Trust plan to offload shares worth Rs 490 crore and Rs 210 crore, respectively. Of the fresh issuance, Rs 525 crore will be allocated to reduce debt, with additional funds for general corporate purposes. This marks Powerica's second attempt at an IPO after a previous attempt was shelved in 2019. *—PTI*

Retail inflation eases to 1.55%, hits 8-year low

The decline reflects easing prices across key categories

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

India's retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased sharply to 1.55 per cent in July 2025 on a year-on-year basis, marking the lowest level since June 2017, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Tuesday.

The decline of 55 basis points from June 2025's headline inflation reflects easing prices across key categories and a favorable base effect.

Food inflation, based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), dropped further into negative territory at -1.76 per cent in July, compared to -1.01 per cent in June. This marks the lowest level of food inflation since January 2019. The fall is attributed to a broad-based decline in prices of pulses and products, vegetables, cereals, eggs, sugar and confectionery, as well as transport and communication services.

In rural areas, headline inflation fell to 1.18 per cent in July from 1.72 per cent in June, while rural food inflation declined to -1.74 per cent from -0.87 per cent over the same period. Urban inflation also eased, falling to 2.05 per cent in July from 2.56 per cent in June, with urban food inflation slipping further to -1.90 per cent from -1.17 per cent.

Sector-wise, the housing inflation rate stood at 3.17 per cent in July, nearly unchanged from 3.18% in June. Education inflation eased to 4.00 per cent in July from 4.37 per cent a month earlier. Health inflation, however, edged up slightly to 4.57 per cent from 4.38 per cent in June.

A notable decline was recorded in the transport and communication category, where inflation fell sharply to 2.12 per cent in July from 3.90 per cent in June. Fuel and light inflation inched up to 2.67 per cent, compared to 2.55 per cent in the previous month. *–ANI*

Food inflation, based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), dropped further into negative territory at -1.76 per cent in July, compared to -1.01 per cent in June

PHOTO: PIXABAY

- Food Urban inflation also eased, falling to 2.05 per cent in July from 2.56 per cent in June, with urban food inflation slipping further to -1.90 per cent from -1.17 per cent. Sector-wise, the housing inflation rate stood at 3.17 per cent in July

TENSE MARKET

Sensex drops 368 pts, Nifty lowers 97.65 pts

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower in a highly volatile trade on Tuesday dragged down by blue-chip bank stocks and caution ahead of domestic and US inflation data.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 368.49 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 80,235.59. During the day, it hit a high of 80,997.67 and a low of 80,164.36, gyrating 833.31 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty went lower by 97.65 points or 0.40 per cent to 24,487.40.

Investors are also awaiting cues from the US-Russia talks on 15 August.

From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Trent, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards.

However, Maruti, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra and NTPC were among the major gainers.

Additionally, shares of Highway Infrastructure Ltd on Tuesday ended with a premium of over 75 per cent against the issue price of Rs 70.

The stock on the BSE later ended 75.48 per cent higher at Rs 122.84 -- the upper circuit limit.

On the NSE, the stock ended with a gain of 72.5 per cent at Rs 120.75 -- the upper circuit limit.

The company's market valuation stood at Rs 881.02 crore.

The initial public offer (IPO) of Highway Infrastructure Ltd garnered a whopping 300.61 times subscription on the closing day of the share sale.

The Rs 130-crore IPO had a price band of Rs 65-70 per share. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Diamond, shrimp, textile & carpet firms face tariff blow

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Crisil Ratings has warned that the United States' new tariffs on Indian goods will severely impact key export sectors, particularly diamond polishing, shrimp, home textiles and carpets.

Under an executive order by President Donald Trump, a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian imports took effect on 7 August, 2025. A further 25 per cent penalty tariff imposed in response to India's crude oil purchases from Russia will come into force on 27 August, taking the total to around 50 per cent, on top of existing most-favoured-nation duties.

The US accounts for 20 per cent of India's merchandise exports and 2 per cent of GDP. Tariff rates now exceed those faced by many Asian competitors, apart from China.

Diamond polishers, who derive a quarter of their revenue from the US, face a sharp fall in earnings amid already weak demand for natural stones and the growing popularity of lab-grown diamonds. Shrimp exporters, with 48 per cent of revenue from the US, risk becoming uncompetitive as the highest-taxed supplier. Home textiles and carpets where 60 per cent and 50 per cent of exports respectively go to the US will also see significant declines in sales and profits.

Sectors with lower US exposure, such as ready-made garments, agrochemicals, speciality chemicals and capital goods, may absorb some of the impact, but the additional 25 per cent penalty will still hurt competitiveness, particularly against China, Vietnam and Mexico. *—ANI*

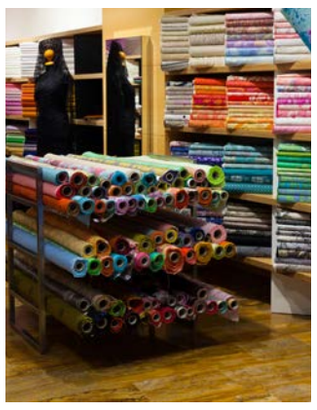


PHOTO: ANI

Musk to sue Apple over App Store ranking

NEW YORK, 12 AUG

Billionaire SpaceX, Tesla and X owner Elon Musk says he plans to sue Apple for not featuring X and its Grok artificial intelligence chatbot app in its top recommended apps in its App Store.

Musk posted the comments on X, saying, "Hey @Apple App Store, why do you refuse to put either X or Grok in your Must Have' section when X is the #1 news app in the world and Grok is #5 among all apps? Are you playing politics? What gives? Inquiring minds want to know."

Grok is owned by Musk's artificial intelligence start-up xAI. Musk said, "Apple is behaving in a manner that makes it impossible for any AI company besides OpenAI to reach #1 in the App Store, which is an unequivocal antitrust violation. xAI will take immediate legal action."

There was no immediate comment from Apple, which has faced various allegations of antitrust violations. A federal judge recently found Apple violated a court injunction in an antitrust case filed by Fortnite maker Epic Games. Regulators of 27-nation European Union fined Apple 500 million euros in April for breaking competition rules by preventing app makers from pointing users to cheaper options outside its App Store. *—PTI*

Four ₹4.5K cr semiconductor projects get nod

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Union Cabinet has approved four semiconductor projects worth Rs 4,594 crore in Odisha, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh under the Rs 76,000-crore India Semiconductor Mission.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Bhubaneswar will host a silicon carbide semiconductor plant by SiCsem Pvt Ltd, costing Rs 2,066 crore, with a capacity of 9.6 crore chips annually. Silicon carbide is used in missiles, satellites, telecom towers, rockets and railway engines. In Andhra, Advanced System in Package Technologies will establish a Rs 468-cr chip packaging facility, also producing 9.6 crore chips a year. *—PTI*

India puts port curbs on some B'desh jute goods

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

The Government of India has imposed new restrictions on the import of certain jute-based goods from Bangladesh. The decision, issued through a government notification by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on August 11, 2025, amends the existing Import Policy under the ITC (HS), 2022 Schedule 1, and takes immediate effect.

According to the notification, items including bleached and unbleached woven fabrics of jute or other textile bast fibres, twine, cordage, rope, cables made of jute, and sacks and bags of jute will no longer be allowed entry into India through any land port along the India-Bangladesh border. Instead, these imports will be permitted only through the Nhava Sheva Seaport in Maharashtra.

PHOTO: ANI

The DGFT notification stated that the restrictions are being enforced under the powers given by the Foreign Trade Act, 1992, and in continuation of earlier measures announced in May and June 2025. While the order does not specify the reasons behind the latest move, such measures are often linked to quality control, trade balance concerns, or safeguarding domestic industries from competitive pricing pressures. *—ANI*

Airtel Payments Bank reports 44.4% rise in Q1

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Airtel Payments Bank has announced a remarkable 44.4 per cent increase in net profit for the June quarter, totalling Rs 10.4 crore, driven by substantial growth across key performance metrics. For Q1 FY26, the bank reported revenues of Rs 777.4 crore, reflecting a year-on-year rise of 27.5 per cent.

The bank's annualised revenue has surpassed Rs 3,000 crore, positioning it as one of the fastest-growing digital banks in India. The Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortisation reached Rs 81.8 crore, marking a 30 per cent year-on-year increase, attributed to "strong operating performance and rapid customer adoption".

Customer deposits surged by 27.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,743 crore. *—PTI*

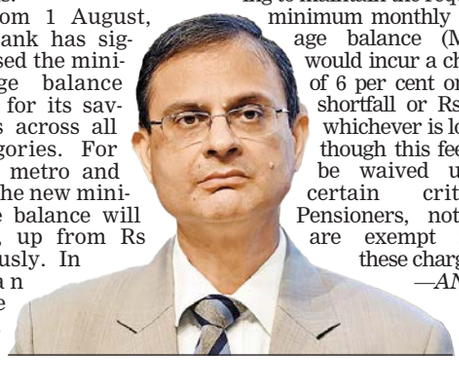
RBI won't regulate minimum balance requirements: Guv

MUMBAI, 12 AUG

In a recent statement, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra addressed concerns regarding the minimum balance requirements for savings accounts, noting that such stipulations fall outside the RBI's regulatory domain. Banks are free to set these amounts based on their business needs.

Effective from 1 August, 2025, ICICI Bank has significantly raised the minimum average balance requirements for its savings accounts across all branch categories. For customers in metro and urban areas, the new minimum average balance will be Rs 50,000, up from Rs 10,000 previously. In semi-urban branches, the requirement has increased to Rs 25,000 from Rs 5,000, while rural branches now require a minimum balance of Rs 10,000, up from Rs 2,500.

Malhotra confirmed that this issue remains unregulated by the RBI, allowing banks to establish their own policies as per their operational models. He addressed rising customer concerns, mentioning that those failing to maintain the required minimum monthly average balance (MAB) would incur a charge of 6 per cent on the shortfall or Rs 500, whichever is lower, though this fee can be waived under certain criteria. Pensioners, notably, are exempt from these charges. *—ANI*



RBI raises ₹8K cr via state bonds

RBI has raised Rs 8,450 crore through its latest auction of State Government Securities, with cut-off yields ranging from 6.4 per cent to 7.4 per cent. Bihar secured the highest, borrowing Rs 2,000 crore for 30 years at 7.4 per cent, followed by Telangana with Rs 1,000 crore for 35 years at 7.3 per cent. Goa raised Rs 100 crore for 11 years at 7.1 per cent, while Jammu & Kashmir borrowed Rs 350 crore for 15 years at 7.3 per cent. Maharashtra dominated re-issues, raising Rs 4,000 crore across four tranches, with yields between 7.3 per cent and 7.4 per cent. The RBI confirmed all amounts were fully subscribed, reflecting strong investor demand. *—ANI*

TECH SECTOR AHEAD

'8% firms reached AI transformation'

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

AI Pulse Survey done by global consulting firm Protiviti, has revealed that while most organisations worldwide are still in the early stages of artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, satisfaction levels with AI returns are high, with 85 per cent reporting that investments have met or exceeded expectations.

The study, conducted between March-April 2025 across over 1,000 business leaders from various sectors and geographies, found that only 8 per cent of the organisations have reached the highest maturity level, which they called the "transformation" stage, where AI drives significant innovation and competitive advantage. A majority, 51 per cent are in the initial exploration or experimentation phases.

The technology sector is the most advanced, with over 70 per cent of the companies in stages three and four of AI maturity, actively scaling AI and using it to reshape industries. Manufacturing shows strong experimentation, particularly in predictive maintenance, quality control and robotics.With maturity return on Investments (ROI) satisfaction level in AI have risen significantly. At the earliest stage, 36 per cent of organisations said returns were below expectations. But by the transformation stage, nearly 75 per cent reported returns exceeding expectations, with 47 per cent saying they had significantly exceeded expectations.

The survey also revealed shifting perceptions of AI success. Early-stage organisations focus on cost savings, employee productivity and process efficiency. In later stages, priorities expand to customer satisfaction and revenue growth, indicating a strategic pivot from short-term efficiencies to long-term business transformation.

The report concludes that to progress from experimentation to transformation, organisations should focus on capability building, robust data governance, scalable infrastructure and continuous employee upskilling. *—ANI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Net direct tax mop-up falls nearly 4% this fiscal

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

Net direct tax collection dipped 3.95 per cent to Rs 6.64 lakh crore so far this fiscal, mainly on account on higher refunds, according to government data released on Tuesday.

The net corporate tax collection stood at about Rs 2.29 lakh crore, while non-corporate tax (which includes individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms) was at Rs 4.12 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) mop-up was Rs 22,362 crore between April 1-August 11.

Total net collections stood at about Rs 6.64 lakh crore, a 3.95 per cent fall over Rs 6.91 lakh crore collected in the same period last fiscal (2024-25).

Refunds issued so far this fiscal jumped 10 per cent to Rs 1.35 lakh crore.

Gross collections (before refunds) stood at Rs 7.99 lakh crore between April 1-August 11, a 1.87 per cent dip over Rs 8.14 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

In the current fiscal (2025-26), the government has projected its direct tax collection at Rs 25.20 lakh crore, up 12.7 per cent year-on-year. *—PTI*

PSG strengthens its defense by signing Zabarnyi

PARIS, 12 AUG

Paris Saint-Germain signed Ukraine defender Illia Zabarnyi from Bournemouth on Tuesday for a reported 63 million euros (USD 76 million). The 22-year-old center back joins the European champions after 2 1/2 years at Bournemouth, which has seen its defense ripped apart this offseason. Fellow center back Dean Huijsen has left for Real Madrid, and left back Milos Kerkez signed for Liverpool. Zabarnyi will compete for a place at the heart of the PSG defense with Marquinhos and Willian Pacho. "I'm very happy to join Paris Saint-Germain, the best club in the world, with the best project," Zabarnyi said.—*PTI*

Saint Louis Rapid R1-3: Gukesh bounces back strong

ST. LOUIS, 12 AUG

Reigning world champion D Gukesh bounced back from an opening round loss to American Levon Aronian with wins over Grigoriy Oparin and Liem Le Quang, finishing the first day in joint third place at the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Gukesh was outplayed by Aronian in a complex opening-round battle but rebounded strongly, producing a resounding victory against Oparin before crushing Liem to end the day with four points out of a possible six on Monday. With each rapid win worth two points . Fresh from his triumph in the recently concluded Freestyle Chess tournament in Las Vegas, the American GM beat key rivals Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France to maintain a perfect score.—*PTI*

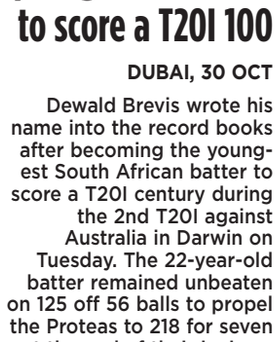


PHOTO: X/CRICAUSTRALIA

Brevis becomes youngest SA batter to score a T20I 100

DUBAI, 30 OCT

Dewald Brevis wrote his name into the record books after becoming the youngest South African batter to score a T20I century during the 2nd T20I against Australia in Darwin on Tuesday. The 22-year-old batter remained unbeaten on 125 off 56 balls to propel the Proteas to 218 for seven at the end of their innings. Brevis, who also plays for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL), eclipsed the record held by Richard Levi, who scored a T20I 100 at 24 years of age. The middle-order batter's 41-ball hundred was also the second-fastest three-figure knock by a South African, just behind David Miller, who scored one in just 35 balls.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Nikeeta Takale India's lone female driver in APRC

MEDAN, 12 AUG

The only Indian female driver in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Nikeeta Takale, who won three podiums in the Sumatera Utara Rally, aspires to participate in the World Rally Championships and the gruelling Dakar Rally after achieving success here. Takale, with her co-driver Sudhindra BG, won three titles here in the third round of APRC, which concluded on Sunday, bagging the APRC RC4 class, the APRC Ladies Class, and the Sumatera Rally RC4 category. Her exploits here have made her eligible to participate in the APRC Finals in Japan scheduled for 6-8 November.—*PTI*

India's squad for Asia Cup: 3 big stars to be snubbed

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ @ASIACUP2025

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

The Asia Cup will be the Indian cricket team's next big assignment after a memorable England Tour. According to a report by news agency PTI, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee is likely to select the squad for the Asia Cup on August 19 or 20 depending on when the Centre of Excellence's (CoE) Sports Science team sends the medical bulletin of all players, including that of skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who has already started batting at the nets in Bengaluru..

The report further said the BCCI selection committee won't be too keen to tinker with the set-up as Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar, Tilak Varma, and Hardik Pandya form a solid top five.

"Abhishek Sharma is the world's No. 1 T20 batter in the last ICC rankings. Sanju Samson has been fantastic last season with both bat and gloves. So it will certainly be a tough call, but Shubman in current form (although in Tests) can't be ignored. He had a good IPL also. The problem for selectors is, there are too many performers at the top of the order," a BCCI source privy to developments told PTI.

With so many players in the top order, it would be very difficult to find a slot for Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan.

Even KL Rahul, who is now the first-choice keeper in ODIs, is unlikely to be considered as he doesn't bat in the middle-order.

While Samson is all but certain to be the first keeper, the choice for the second keeper's slot will be between Jitesh Sharma and Dhruv Jurel. While Jurel was a part of the last T20 series, Jitesh had been impressive for RCB during their IPL-winning campaign. He has also revelled in the role of a finisher. —*PTI*

No Women's WC matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

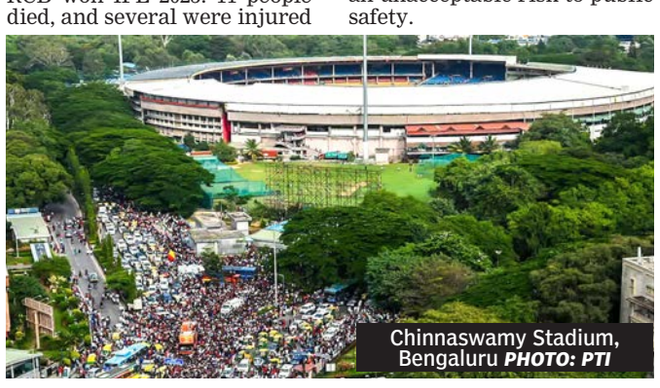
The ODI World Cup is scheduled to begin on 30 September

BENGALURU, 12 AUG

In a big blow to the Karnataka State Cricket Association, the M Chinnaswamy Stadium will not host any matches in the Women's Cricket World Cup. Bengaluru was set to host the tournament opener and a semi-final, apart from three other games.

The ODI World Cup is scheduled to begin from 30 September onwards., As per India Today, the Karnataka government has denied permission citing safety risks, as per India Today. The government cited the report submitted by the Justice Cunha committee, which probed the Bengaluru stampede after RCB won IPL 2025. 11 people died, and several were injured in the tragedy. Recently, the Maharaja Trophy matches were moved out of Bengaluru to Mysuru for the same reason., Reacting to the incident, a KSCA official reportedly told the publication that their request was turned down even though they offered to host games without any spectators.

INDW vs SLW, ENGW vs SAW, INDW vs BANW, and the semi-final were the clashes that were scheduled to be held in Bengaluru. The commission's report claimed that the Chinnaswamy Stadium's "design and structure" are inherently "unsuitable and unsafe" for mass gatherings. It stated that hosting any mass events in the future would be an unacceptable risk to public safety.



Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru PHOTO: PTI

the aftermath of the Bengaluru stampede, the KSCA treasurer and secretary tendered their resignations on moral grounds. It is pertinent to point out that Karnataka has no other international stadium apart from the Chinnaswamy. This means the BCCI is now tasked with finding another venue at the last minute.

Apart from the Women's Cricket World Cup, there are high chances that Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will have to find a new home in IPL 2026. —*PTI*

I will cherish double century in Birmingham forever: Gill

DUBAI, 12 AUG

PHOTO: PTI

The epic double hundred in a winning cause at Edgbaston will forever be etched in the memory of Indian skipper Shubman Gill, who was on Tuesday named ICC's 'Player Of The Month' for scoring 754 runs in the recently-concluded five-Test series against England.

Gill, who was inspirational both as a batter and skipper, led from the front with four hundreds as a young Indian team without Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma drew 2-2 against England.

The Indian skipper, who won the award ahead of his England counterpart Ben Stokes and South Africa all-rounder Wiaan Mulder, said he was hoping to continue his good form in the season ahead.

"It feels great to be named the ICC Player of the Month for July. This time it holds a lot more significance since it has come for my performances during my first Test series as captain. —*PTI*

WOMEN'S T20I RANKINGS

Deepti climbs close to top spot, Mandhana slips to 2nd

DUBAI, 12 AUG

India's Deepti Sharma inched closer to the top spot after rising to second place in the latest ICC Women's T20I bowling rankings, while opener Smriti Mandhana slipped to the second position among batters.

Deepti, who now shares the spot with Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal, has climbed to No.2 with a 732 rating, four points behind Australia's Annabel Sutherland, who became the No. 1-ranked T20I bowler for the first time.

It was Iqbal who lost rating points and relinquished the top spot after taking just three wickets in the series against Ireland, which Pakistan women lost 1-2.

Deepti Sharma PHOTO: PTI

PHOTO: PTI

Smriti Mandhana

Sutherland hasn't featured in the shortest format since she took a four-wicket haul against New Zealand in March, but her rating points (736) remain unchanged as a group of bowlers near the top of the rankings lost points across the last week.

Deepti stayed at the third position in the T20I allrounder's list with 387 rating points, behind West Indies' Hayley Matthews (505) and New Zealand's Amelia Kerr (434). Stylish southpaw Smriti Mandhana slipped a spot to second place with 728 rating points, behind England's Nat Sciver-Brunt (731).India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur jumped 10 places to be knocking on the top 10 door. Among others, in-form Ireland all-rounder Orla Prendergast has been rewarded for some strong performances against Pakistan by reaching a new career-high 19th in the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings. —*PTI*

ENGAGED AFTER 8 YEARS

Ronaldo is officially engaged to longtime partner Georgina Rodriguez, who announced the news on Instagram, flaunting a stunning diamond ring. The couple, together since 2017, share five children. PHOTO: @CRISTIANO

Cincinnati Open: Aryna survives massive struggle with Emma

CINCINNATI, 12 AUG

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka fought through a three-hour battle to hold off an inspired Emma Raducanu 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 7-6 (7/5) on Monday and reach the fourth round of the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open. The top seed, who won the Cincinnati final a year ago over Jessica Pegula, increased her lead at the top of the WTA Tour match-win statistics as she secured her 49th of the season. But the struggle was real for Sabalenka, who finished with two aces in the closing stages.

"I'm happy to get through this difficult match," Sabalenka said. "I just hope tomorrow is a day off. I need time to recover from such a great battle."

Raducanu put up a huge fight, matching Sabalenka throughout. The British number one survived a 25-minute eighth game of the final set, which went to 13 deuces, with Raducanu saving four break points before finally holding for 4-all and eventually into a tiebreaker.

But Sabalenka squeezed out victory with a sixth ace for 5-4 in the breaker and delivered her seventh on second match point to bring the battle to a close after three hours and nine minutes. "It was all about momentum," Sabalenka said. "I took some risks at the end, went for crazy shots, went to the net. "A risky game from me helped to put a lot of pressure on her," she said of an opponent whom she hugged warmly at the net.

Sabalenka is bidding for her 10th trophy at the 1000 level and her second this season after winning at Madrid. In other third-round results at the last major tuneup before the US Open, Ekaterina Alexandrova defeated Australian Maya Jant 6-4, 6-3.

Monica Seles says she has myasthenia gravis

Monica Seles first noticed the symptoms of myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular autoimmune disease, she discussed it during a recent interview with The Associated Press while she was swinging a racket the way she'd done so many times during, and after, a career that included nine Grand Slam titles and a place in the International Tennis Hall of Fame. —*PTI*

Sabalenka PHOTO: @ARYNASABALENKA

FIFA MOVES AHEAD WITH WORLD CUP GAMES

ATLANTA, 12 AUG

Human rights scandals have marred World Cup tournaments for years, but FIFA is testing a new protocol requiring all host committees to develop action plans to protect human rights for the 2026 games in North America.

With the games less than a year away, though, FIFA's commitment to upholding human rights is still under scrutiny. Human rights advocates who wanted more enforceable standards and clearer directions for local officials say FIFA watered down a more robust model for the plans.

"Even though where we landed is very different than what we had consulted them on, the existence of the framework is in many ways unprecedented. Sports bodies have not had human rights frameworks that reflected the breadth of issues covered across so many jurisdictions. But the plan is just a plan. It's not self-executing," said Jennifer Li, director of the O'Neill Institute's Center for Community Health Innovation at Georgetown Law and national coordinator of the Dignity 2026 Coalition, which is working with FIFA on human rights.

Adding to advocates' unease, several US host committees said they couldn't meet a March deadline for an early draft of their plans. A FIFA spokesperson said the governing body has been working closely with host cities and counties. —*PTI*

NATIONAL SPORTS

Sports Governance Bill need of the hour

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

As the National Sports Governance Bill is set to become a law, the country's national federations and Indian Olympic Association President P T Usha on Tuesday welcomed the landmark policy, calling it a step in the right direction as India gears up to bid for the 2036 Olympics.

The Bill, which is set to become a law after being passed in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, aims to revamp and standardise India's sports administration, creating a clear framework for good governance in the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

P T Usha PHOTO: PTI

India will thus join countries like the USA, UK, China, and Japan in having formal laws for streamlined sports administration.

Soon after, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya moved the bills for consideration and passage in the Upper House at 3 pm, there were vociferous opposition protests over the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The opposition eventually staged a walkout led by the Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who demanded a discussion on the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

"In 20 countries, there is sports law. I request the Rajya Sabha to make India the 21st country with a sports law," Mandaviya said in his address, which was followed by a discussion that lasted over two hours. —*PTI*

Subroto Cup to kick off on 19 August

NEW DELHI, 12 AUG

A total of 106 teams across three categories, including four international sides, will vie for honours when the 64th Subroto Cup kicks off here on 19 August.

The prestigious tournament will feature players competing across three categories: Junior Boys (U-17), Junior Girls (U-17), and Sub-Junior Boys (U-15). The tournament, organised by the Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) under the aegis of the Air Force Sports Control Board, will be held across venues in Delhi NCR and Bengaluru till September 25.

"As we continue to pursue our ultimate goal of nurturing young talent, this tournament provides an ideal platform for school children to showcase their talent, gain exposure, and prepare for progression into senior-level football." In the previous edition, TG English School, Bishnupur (Manipur) was crowned champions in the Junior Boys category. Mother International School, Ranchi (Jharkhand), defended its title in the Junior Girls category, while Nongiri Presbyterian Secondary School, Meghalaya, lifted the Sub-Junior Boys trophy in Bengaluru. —*PTI*